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EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

PAPERS REGARDING THE FAMINE

AND THE

RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA DURING 1900-1902

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VOL. I.—BRITISH DISTRICTS.

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I.

TELEGRAMS.

(*Extract.*) *From Secretary of State to Governor, Bombay, 7th July*, 1900.

I would like to learn causes of high mortality in Ahmedabad, Broach, Kaira, Panch Mahals, Surat, Khandesh, Nasik during March and April.

From Governor, Bombay, 8th July, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 30th June :—Famine-stricken districts : 10,320 cases of cholera, of which 6,502 fatal. Native States : cases of cholera, 9,700 ; deaths from cholera, 5,931. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British Districts, 5,324, or three-fourths per mille. Rain moderate to slight in Bombay Deccan and Khandesh has resulted in a decrease in number on relief works. No rain worth mentioning has fallen in any of the districts of North Gujarat, where distress is severe. Number on relief works increasing rapidly in consequence of drought : numbers on gratuitous relief increasing throughout affected districts.

From Viceroy, 9th July, 1900.

Famine. Rainfall has been fairly general during past week in Bombay Deccan, Khandesh, Berar and Central Provinces, Gangetic Plain and Punjab, but rainfall much below average in these tracts, excepting Southern Deccan. Little or no rain has fallen in Rajputana and Gujarat and Central India. Agricultural operations seriously impeded everywhere except Burma, Bengal, Mysore, Madras. Distress and famine expenditure prolonged beyond expectation. Outlook gloomy in Rajputana and Gujarat and Central India, where cattle, bought in anticipation of rains, are dying, and people much disheartened. Cholera mortality continues high in Bombay. May mortality there appalling. Calcutta Committee have distributed 107 lakhs relief fund, virtually exhausting it. Number of persons in receipt of relief :—Bombay, 1,401,000 ; Punjab, 164,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,913,000 ; Berar, 495,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 151,000 ; Rajputana States, 523,000 ; Central India States, 165,000 ; Bombay Native States, 469,000 ; Baroda, 92,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 3,000 ; Punjab Native States, 36,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 60,000 ; Hyderabad, 514,000 ; Madras, 15,000 ; Bengal, 12,000. Total, 6,013,000.

From Viceroy, 12th July, 1900.

Famine. Excellent rain has fallen in North-West Provinces and parts of Central India. Useful showers also in Rajputana and Deccan.

From Viceroy, 14*th July*, 1900.

Famine. Heavier and more general rain during week in Berar, Central Provinces, and Hyderabad. Rainfall good and sufficient for present needs in Rajputana. Central India, moderate general rain, and sowings commenced in parts. Fair rain has fallen in Bombay, Deccan and Khandesh. Monsoon heavy, Surat. Good falls reported in Kathiawar, Broach, Thana. Sufficient rain has not yet fallen in Punjab for dry land sowing. Notwithstanding that prospects have improved, no early diminution of relief possible. On the contrary, figures this week highest yet reported. Village relief and advances are replacing relief works. Condition surviving cattle deplorable in Western India. Cholera continues prevalent Bombay. Health returns for Central Provinces satisfactory. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,462,000; Punjab, 219,000; Central Provinces, 1,999,000; Berar, 516,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 151,000; Rajputana States, 527,000; Central India States, 155,000; Bombay Native States, 474,000; Baroda, report not received; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 40,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 60,000; Hyderabad, 509,000; Madras, 17,000; Bengal, 16,000. Total, 6,148,000.

(*Extract.*) *From Governor, Bombay, July* 15*th*, 1900.

Your telegram of 7th July. Condition of Gujarat most difficult circumstance of whole famine to account for. Measures taken for the relief of the suffering population in September last, as soon as distress manifested. Owing to ample supply of establishment then, relief organization exceptionally good. Average cost per unit relieved higher than for the rest of Bombay Presidency, 1 anna 8¼ pies against 1 anna 6½ pies elsewhere, mainly on account of full wages on relief works ordinarily earned. Deductions for wilful short work have only been 4½ per cent. in March last, 3½ per cent. in April last. There were then, on an average, 84 works open for 10,185 square miles in Gujarat, against 125 works for 34,239 square miles in Bombay Deccan and Khandesh. In the former, there was one work, large or small, on an average within 6½ miles of every distressed village. Fortnightly medical reports declare health and strength of continuous workers satisfactory. Thirty-five additional medical and other British officers employed, against 26 for the rest of Bombay Presidency. One additional Inspecting officer has been appointed to every 76 square miles Gujarat, against 131 in Bombay Deccan and Khandesh. Gratuitous relief is being given to aged and infirm persons freely from first according to Famine Code. When cholera has stricken and dispersed large gangs of relief labourers, orders have been issued for dole to every person without the means of subsistence, till induced to return to work. One poor-house to every 339 square miles in Gujarat against 1,389 square miles in Bombay Deccan and Khandesh. Kitchens on works open to incapables living within reach. Famine Commission recommendations regarding Hill Tribes ordered to be made applicable to Panch Mahals in August last. We have approved every suggestion for extension of relief by Commissioner, who has the whole of 31 years' service in Gujarat. Necessary action has been taken by him generally in anticipation of sanction. In some cases even more liberal gratuitous relief has been directed by Governor of Bombay in Council. Every request for additional officers promptly met. Only one-fourth land revenue collected. Failure of crops more or less complete in the greater part of province, and deficient water-supply compelled Gujaratis to eat unaccustomed food and drink exceptionally impure brackish water, which probably produced bowel complaints and rendered people susceptible to cholera. Fever is prevalent, causing deaths of attendants on inmates of poor-houses, aggravated by heat very great during three months ending May. Abnormal increase in death-rate also in large towns, where, excluding immigrants, proportion famine-stricken population not large. People exceptionally soft, generally deficient in stamina, are quite unaccustomed to famine, unacquainted with famine methods. This led many to wander or get living such as they could, in preference to resorting to Famine

Relief Works. Especially many Bhils and Kolis and other like tribes could not be induced without difficulty to resort to Famine Relief Works, or even poor-houses or kitchens, where fed without demand for labour. When sent to poor-houses or works they, being impatient of any discipline, persistently left works and kitchens and resumed wandering until reduced to hopeless condition. Gujarat so interlaced with Native States that large immigration from Native States into British territory is inevitable. Many immigrants from Native States were, on arrival at works, not expected to recover. Their deaths raise disproportionately rate calculated on resident population, 1891 Census. In Khandesh and Nasik increase in mortality is due mainly to cholera epidemic. Deaths from cholera many more than attributed to it by village officials. But large numbers of famished Bhils entered Western Khandesh, mainly from Native States to the north of Satpudas and petty Dang and Mewas States. Notwithstanding liberal treatment, deaths among them numerous. Specially reduced tasks prescribed for those able to work; they were exempted from penal wage, those too reduced for work being fed in kitchens. In Ahmednagar also immigration from Nizam's dominions of persons far reduced contributed with cholera to high total death-rate in April last. Prompt return to work of large numbers who had fled on outbreak of cholera, and enormous increase of demand for employment on works since panic has subsided disapprove allegations regarding harsh treatment, for which no foundation exists. In Panch Mahals, cholera killed many Native officers on relief works, besides workers, and with workers fled many surviving Native officers leaving conduct of relief operations, including collection and disposal of dead, for handful of English and Native officers to carry on.

(*Extract.*) *From Viceroy, 20th July*, 1900.

Famine. In Bombay, crops reported to be above average in Konkan, Carnatic, Eastern Deccan, and promising elsewhere south of Nerbudda. North of Nerbudda, in Gujarat, Kathiawar, Baroda, rainfall to date insufficient for sowings, excepting in few places. Food crops sowing is not possible after 1st August, cotton sowing is not possible after 15th August. In Central Provinces there has been excellent rain lately; sowings being actively prosecuted—if monsoon continues favourable in cultivated area, will fall short only in Nagpur and Chhattisgarh. Prospects encouraging, crops are promising in Berar. Sufficient rain has fallen in Hyderabad, but want of cattle felt. In Rajputana rainfall has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes, save in Jaisalmer, South-west Marwar, Sirohi, Bikaner; Rajputana cropping will fall short owing to heavy mortality among cattle. In Central India present agricultural prospects generally satisfactory. In Punjab sufficient rain has fallen for sowings, but more rain is needed everywhere. In Mysore, some anxiety in places, but no distress is yet reported. In Madras sowings normal. Bengal and Burma prospects good. North-Western Provinces and Oudh have now received rain sufficient for sowings and no anxiety is felt at present.

From Viceroy, 21st July, 1900.

Famine. Monsoon continued favourable in week, except in Gujarat, Kathiawar, Baroda, and Rajputana (West), where cultivation at a standstill for want of rain, and fodder almost unprocurable. Elsewhere autumn sowings being actively prosecuted and germinating well. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief rising in Gujarat, where relief of all kinds has been greatly expanded and establishment strengthened in view of the prolonged drought and low condition of the people; cholera still prevails badly there and famine campaign indefinitely protracted. Kitchen relief general in Central Provinces to carry poorest classes on till crops ripen. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,559,000; Punjab, 184,000; Central Provinces, 2,029,000; Berar, 537,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 141,000; Rajputana States, 476,000; Central India States, 135,000; Bombay Native States, 480,000; Baroda, 101,000;

North-Western Provinces, 4,000 ; Punjab Native States, 42,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 61,000 ; Hyderabad, 500,000 ; Madras, 15,000 ; Bengal, 17,000. Total, 6,281,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 22nd July, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 14th July. Famine-stricken districts, 9,876 cases of cholera, of which there were fatal 6,322. Native States :—Cases of cholera, 9,740 ; deaths from cholera, 6,617. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 6,435 or $4\frac{1}{10}$ per mille. Rainfall, as yet quite inconsiderable, and causes serious anxiety in North Gujarat, where the numbers demanding relief have continued to increase. Cattle mortality increasing, and unless rain falls within a short time and in sufficient quantities to admit of the ordinary cultivation being carried on, the consequences cannot fail to be very serious. Rainfall has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes in the remainder of the affected tracts.

(*Extract.*) *From Governor, Bombay, 25th July*, 1900.

Rainfall has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes in Surat and Southern Gujarat States. Some rain has fallen in parts of Broach, where cotton sowings being actively prosecuted, but more rain is urgently required in Kaira, Ahmedabad, Panch Mahals. Rain not sufficient for agricultural purposes, excepting in a few places. Two and a half inches of rain have fallen since yesterday, Godra, Panch Mahals ; one in several parts of Ahmedabad ; over half-inch in parts Kaira ; rain sufficient in parts Baroda adjoining Surat ; no rain anywhere in Okhamandal Division, Baroda ; rainfall to date insufficient in the remainder of Baroda, where extensive failure of crops inevitable unless good rain falls in a few days. No rain worth mentioning has fallen in any of the districts of Kathiawar, excepting small area south-east, where also more rain is urgently wanted. Cultivation at a standstill for want of rain in almost the whole province. No signs of rain. Season is far advanced for sowing jowar, staple cereal, but bajri can be still mostly substituted for jowar : still time for cotton. Cattle dying from starvation ; scarcity of water increasing day by day. Good falls of rain during the past week where most needed in affected area, Bombay Deccan and Khandesh. In those tracts agricultural prospects have greatly improved. Statistics of mortality in June show death-rate has decreased in Gujarat nearly one-half, as compared with May.

From Viceroy 28th July, 1900.

Famine Considerable anxiety is felt owing to weakness of monsoon. Situation is serious and critical in Gujarat, Baroda, Rajputana (West), which are unsown, and no fodder of any description available. In south-western Punjab sown crops are in imminent danger because rains continue to hold off, fodder is very scarce, and cattle dying. In Central Provinces, Berar, Hyderabad, good crops will be secured if monsoon improves, but not otherwise. Latest reports show death-rate in Central Provinces not much in excess of the normal death-rate. In Gujarat conditions continue very unfavourable to health, though one-fourth of the inhabitants are on State relief. Number of persons in receipt of relief : —Bombay, 1,540,000 ; Punjab, 177,000; Central Provinces, 2,155,000 ; Berar, 523,000 ; Ajmer Merwara, 115,000 ; Rajputana States, 422,000 ; Central India States, 120,000 ; Bombay Native States, 477,000 ; Baroda, 104,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 3,000 ; Punjab Native States, 44,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 58,000 ; Hyderabad, 500,000 ; Madras, 12,000 ; Bengal, 16,000. Total, 6,266,000. Bombay figures incomplete.

From Governor, Bombay, 29th July, 1900.

Following are figures for week-ending 21st July. Famine-sticken districts, 8,607 cases of cholera, of which there were fatal 5,703. Native States, cases of cholera 8,246 ; deaths from cholera 5,710. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 6,753 or $4\frac{2}{5}$ per mille. Good falls of rain during past week throughout North Gujarat, Kathiawar, favourable so far for agricultural operations. Rainfall good and prospects encouraging in the remainder of the affected tracts. Numbers on relief works decreasing. Numbers on gratuitous relief increasing.

From Viceroy, 7th August, 1900.

Famine. Very decided improvement in last 10 days through sudden opportune renewed advance of the monsoon. The rain which has fallen is ample for present agricultural requirements in Gujarat, also in the greater part of Rajputana and Central India. Sowings being actively prosecuted so far as scarcity of plough bullocks permits. If present favourable conditions continue, considerable autumn crops will be secured and tension will relax. Number of persons in receipt of relief :—Bombay, 1,626,000 ; Punjab, 179,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,234,000 ; Berar, 517,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 106,000 ; Rajputana States, 384,000 ; Central India States, 122,000 ; Bombay Native States, 470,000 ; Baroda, 112,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 1,000 ; Punjab Native States, 46,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 52,000 ; Hyderabad, 476,000 ; Madras, 12,000 ; Bengal, 19,000. Total, 6,356,000. Bombay returns of number on relief works incomplete.

From Governor, Bombay, 12th August, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 4th August. Famine-stricken districts :—6,545 cases of cholera, of which 4,264 were fatal. Native States : cases of cholera, 5,414 ; deaths from cholera, 3,290. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 7,041, or $4\frac{2}{5}$ per mille. Cultivation active and sowings going forward generally in North Gujerat and Kathiawar, where plentiful rain has fallen. Crop prospects continue favourable in the remainder of the affected tracts. Numbers on relief works decreasing, numbers on gratuitous relief increasing.

From Viceroy, 14th August, 1900.

Famine. The favourable conditions reported last week continue, and rain is now falling generally throughout the country. Total number supported in all famine-stricken provinces still large owing to backwardness of crops, restricted demand for labour in the fields, and high prices. Number of persons in receipt of relief :—Bombay, 1,586,000 ; Punjab, 169,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,270,000 ; Berar, 472,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 95,000 ; Rajputana States, 324,000 ; Central India States, 105,000 ; Bombay Native States, 421,000 ; Baroda, 122,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 2,000 ; Punjab Native States, 42,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 51,000 ; Hyderabad, 460,000 ; Madras, 8,000 ; Bengal, 22,000. Total, 6,149,000. Bombay and Bengal returns of number on relief works incomplete.

From Viceroy, 20th August, 1900.

Famine. Rainfall heavy and general has continued in most affected tracts. Crops promise well in Central Provinces and Berar, and sowings being actively

prosecuted elsewhere, and general situation improved greatly. In Central Provinces increase in number on gratuitous relief due to free kitchens, necessity for which will shortly disappear. Prices very high everywhere still, indicating depleted stocks or lingering apprehensions. Cholera prevalent throughout Hyderabad and in Bombay. Numbers on relief:—Bombay, 1,476,000; Punjab, 150,000; Central Provinces, 2,309,000; Berar, 324,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 90,000; Rajputana States, 244,000; Central India States, 90,000; Bombay Native States, 362,000; Baroda, 88,000; North-Western Provinces, 1,000; Punjab Native States, 33,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 48,000; Hyderabad, 439,000; Madras, 7,000; Bengal, 27,000. Total, 5,688,000. Bombay returns incomplete.

From Governor, Bombay, 26th August, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 18th August:—Famine-stricken districts, 4,206 cases of cholera, of which 3,025 were fatal. Native States, cases of cholera, 5,800; deaths from cholera 3,873. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 4,964, or $3\frac{3}{5}$ per mille. Rainfall good and prospects encouraging in affected area. Numbers relieved are diminishing.

From Viceroy, 28th August, 1900.

Famine. Good rain continues. Heavy rain in Behar, and North-Western Provinces and Oudh, which has materially benefited crops. In west coast districts and central tracts, where break now desired, fall has been comparatively light. So far crop prospects excellent in nearly all affected tracts, though acreage will be below normal, and harvest late. Cholera still prevails in many districts, and season unhealthy. Free kitchen relief in Central Provinces will now rapidly contract, as agricultural labour is in demand. Elsewhere relief operations steadily decreasing. Number on relief:—Bombay, 1,365,000; Punjab, 124,000; Central Provinces, 2,241,000; Berar, 309,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 75,000; Rajputana States, 226,000; Central India States, 90,000; Bombay Native States, 256,000; Baroda, 77,000; North-Western Provinces, 1,000; Punjab Native States, 31,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 44,000; Hyderabad, 429,000; Madras, 6,000; Bengal, 20,000. Total 5,294,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 2nd September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ended 25th August, famine-stricken districts: 3,024 cases of cholera, of which 2,337 were fatal. Native States, cases of cholera 4,431, deaths from cholera 2,985. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts 4,984, or $3\frac{4}{5}$ per mille. Rain moderate to slight; agricultural prospects continue favourable, except in Bijapur, where crops are suffering for want of rain. Numbers on relief works steadily decreasing, numbers on gratuitous relief increasing.

From Viceroy, 4th September, 1900.

Famine. The rainfall has been comparatively light during the week, and more rain is wanted in parts of Hyderabad and Bombay, and Madras (Central), also in Behar and North-Western Provinces (East). General prospects continue to be on the whole favourable, especially in Central Provinces, Rajputana, and Gujarat. Mortality much reduced in Bombay Presidency (including Sind). Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay,

1,280,000 ; Punjab, 100,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,165,000 ; Berar, 231,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 68,000 ; Rajputana States, 186,000 ; Central India States, 88,000 ; Bombay Native States, 206,000 ; Baroda, 69,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 1,000 ; Punjab Native States, 25,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 43,000 ; Hyderabad, 400,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Bengal, 25,000. Total 4,891,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 9th September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ended 1st September. Famine-stricken districts, 2,000 cases of cholera of which 1,434 were fatal. Native States, cases of cholera 2,970, deaths from cholera 1,930. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 4,021 or $3\frac{2}{5}$ per mille. Rainfall has been light in most places. More rain is now wanted in parts of Bombay Deccan, and Khandesh. Number of famine relief recipients shows decrease.

From Viceroy, 11*th September*, 1900.

Famine. Rain beneficial to crops has continued throughout past week in affected tracts, and prospects of autumn crops continue good. In Madras, Gangetic Plain, and Central Bengal, good rain has relieved all present anxiety as regards autumn crops, and promises well for winter sowings. Steady fall in relief numbers may be expected. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,182,000 ; Punjab, 58,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,958,000 ; Berar, 178,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 62,000 ; Rajputana States, 144,000 ; Central India States, 77,000 ; Bombay Native States, 163,000 ; Baroda, 64,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 2,000 ; Punjab Native States, 22,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 38,000 ; Hyderabad, 357,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Bengal, 24,000. Total, 4,334,000.

From Viceroy, 17*th September*, 1900.

Famine. Reports show good general rainfall during week, especially in Gangetic Plain and Punjab, Madras, Central India, Rajputana. General prospects continue good. Numbers relieved are diminishing, and food-grain prices easier. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,132,000 ; Punjab, 36,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,756,000 ; Berar, 189,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 54,000 ; Rajputana States, 111,000 ; Central India States, 60,000 ; Bombay Native States, 142,000 ; Baroda, 53,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 1,000 ; Punjab Native States, 20,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 34,000 ; Hyderabad, 279,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Bengal, 13,000. Total, 3,884,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 18*th September*, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 8th September:—Famine-stricken districts: 1,401 cases of cholera, of which 991 were fatal. Native States: cases of cholera, 2,306 ; deaths from cholera, 1,473. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 3,902, or $3\frac{2}{5}$ per mille. Rain moderate to slight. Crops are thriving except in parts of Deccan and Karnatak, where good fall of rain urgently wanted. Numbers on works have decreased. Numbers on gratuitous relief increasing.

From Governor, Bombay, 23rd September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 15th September :—Famine-stricken districts, 702 cases of cholera, of which 497 were fatal. Native States :—Cases of cholera, 1,427 ; deaths from cholera, 1,028. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 3,589, or $3\frac{3}{10}$ per mille. Rain has continued to fall in light showers over affected area. More rain urgently wanted throughout Bombay, Deccan, and Khandesh.

From Viceroy, 24th September, 1900.

Famine. Good general rainfall continues. Rainfall insufficient in few limited areas only in Bombay. Elsewhere fine weather generally wanted for ripening autumn and sowing winter crops. A further reduction in number on relief works. Prices falling slowly everywhere. On relief: Bombay, 1,074,000 ; Punjab, 32,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,597,000 ; Berar, 195,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 39,000 ; Rajputana States, 83,000 ; Central India States, 53,000 ; Bombay Native States, 122,000 ; Baroda, 49,000 ; North-Western Provinces, 1,000 ; Punjab Native States, 18,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 31,000 ; Hyderabad, 231,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Bengal, 8,000. Total, 3,537,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 30th September, 1900.

Following are figures for week ended 22nd September :—Famine-stricken districts : 423 cases of cholera, of which 305 were fatal. Native States : cases of cholera, 651 ; deaths from cholera, 433. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works or gratuitous relief, British districts, 3,292, or $3\frac{3}{10}$ per mille. Rain has been absent, or light and scattered, over the greater part of affected area. Crops are now in urgent need of rain in parts. Numbers relieved are diminishing.

From Viceroy, 3rd October, 1900.

Famine. Rainfall exceptionally heavy during the week in Central Bengal and Behar. General rain also in Northern India, Central Provinces, Rajputana. Rain has been very beneficial on the whole, as securing satisfactory winter sowings. Prospects good, except in limited areas, Bombay Deccan. Number of persons in receipt of relief :—Bombay, 980,000 ; Punjab, 29,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,446,000 ; Berar, 192,000 ; Ajmer-Merwara, 28,000 ; Rajputana States, 72,000 ; Central India States, 48,000 ; Bombay Native States, 106,000 ; Baroda, 50,000 ; North-Western Provinces, relief discontinued ; Punjab Native States, 12,000 ; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 28,000 ; Hyderabad, 169,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Bengal, relief discontinued. Total, 3,163,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 7th October, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 29th September :—Famine-stricken districts : 337 cases of cholera, of which there were fatal 215. Native States : cases of cholera, 294 ; deaths from cholera, 223. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts, 2,411, or $2\frac{7}{10}$ per mille. Rain, moderate to slight. Good fall of rain ungently wanted in parts of affected area. Crops withered in parts of Karnatak, Sholapur, Ahmednagar. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease.

From Viceroy, 8th October, 1900.

Famine. Condition of autumn crops is excellent, except in part of Bombay Deccan, where more rain is needed for ploughing, and sowings being actively prosecuted for winter crops and famine conditions are disappearing. Prices still high, but falling. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 883,000; Punjab, 24,000; Central Provinces, 1,252,000; Berar, 176,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 20,000; Rajputana States, 55,000; Central India States, 31,000; Bombay Native States, 92,000; Baroda, 44,000; Punjab Native States, 10,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 25,000; Hyderabad, 132,000; Madras, 2,000. Total, 2,746,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 13th October, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 6th October. Famine-stricken districts:—252 cases of cholera, of which there were fatal, 158. Native States:—cases of cholera, 110; deaths from cholera, 65. Nowhere cholera in epidemic form. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, British districts, 1,857 or $2\frac{2}{5}$ per mille. Rain has been absent or light and scattered over the greater part of the affected area. Crops on unirrigated lands are suffering for want of rain, which is urgently needed in parts of Deccan and Karnatak, where winter crops cultivation at a standstill for want of rain.

From Viceroy, 16th October, 1900.

Famine. Disquieting reports received from Bombay. Situation described as serious in Eastern Deccan, Bijapur, and parts Belgaum and Dharwar. If rain does not come with north-east monsoon, area of winter crops there will be small, and there will be considerable distress in parts. Elsewhere in India harvest prospect excellent, and famine conditions are disappearing. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 769,000; Punjab, 6,000; Central Provinces, 1,026,000; Berar, 168,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 3,000; Rajputana States, 44,000; Central India States, 29,000; Bombay Native States, 75,000; Baroda, 43,000; Punjab Native States, 4,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 21,000; Hyderabad, 103,000; Madras, 1,000. Total, 2,292,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 21st October, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 13th October:—Famine-stricken districts: 183 cases of cholera, of which 108 were fatal. Only a few scattered cases of cholera in Native States. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, British Districts, 1,599, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per mille. No rain except light showers in parts of Karnatak. Rain is much needed in all districts. Numbers on relief diminishing.

From Viceroy, 23rd October, 1900.

Famine. Rain is still wanted urgently in part of Bombay Deccan and Hyderabad for standing crops and spring cultivation. More rain would be beneficial also in Gujarat and Baroda. Elsewhere prospects generally good. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 625,000; Punjab, 3,000; Central Provinces, 800,000; Berar, 159,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 2,000; Rajputana States, 24,000; Central India States, 23,000; Bombay Native

States, 65,000; Baroda, 38,000; Punjab Native States, 4,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 15,000; Hyderabad, 73,000; Madras, relief discontinued. Total, 1,831,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 28th October, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 20th October:—Famine-stricken districts: 107 cases of cholera, of which 76 were fatal. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief, 1,312, or $2\frac{3}{5}$ per mille. Moderate rain doing appreciable good has fallen in Karnatak; elsewhere good fall of rain urgently wanted.

From Viceroy, 29th October, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 499,000; Punjab, relief discontinued; Central Provinces, 625,000; Berar, 123,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 1,000; Rajputana States, 11,000; Central India States, 17,000; Bombay Native States, 50,000; Baroda, 31,000; Punjab Native States, 2,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 15,000; Hyderabad, 50,000. Total 1,422,000.

From Governor, Bombay, 4th November, 1900.

Following are figures for week ended 27th October:—Famine-stricken districts: 106 cases of cholera, of which 60 were fatal. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief, 909, or $2\frac{1}{5}$ per mille. No rain except light showers in four districts. Rain is much needed in all districts. Numbers relieved are diminishing.

From Viceroy, 6th November, 1900.

Famine. Rain is much wanted in parts of Bombay Presidency, Baroda, and Nizam's Dominions, winter crops' sowings being impeded. Otherwise prospects generally good. Prices falling slowly and famine conditions disappearing. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 407,000; Central Provinces, 441,000; Berar, 111,000; Ajmer-Merwara, relief discontinued; Rajputana Native States, 8,000; Central India Native States, 12,000; Bombay Native States, 33,000; Baroda, 26,000; Punjab Native States, 3,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 11,000; Hyderabad, 25,000. Total, 1,077,000.

From Viceroy, 12th November, 1900.

Famine. Numbers declining rapidly in Central Provinces, where relief operations will be brought to an end shortly; less rapidly in Bombay, where relief must last to December and later, should no rain fall. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 337,000; Central Provinces, 269,000; Berar, 82,000; Rajputana Native States, 7,000; Central India Native States, 9,000; Bombay Native States, 26,000; Baroda, 24,000; Punjab Native States, relief discontinued; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 9,000; Hyderabad, 14,000. Total, 777,000.

From Viceroy, 19*th November*, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 287,000; Central Provinces, 146,000; Berar, 53,000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, 6,000; Bombay Native States, 25,000; Baroda, 19,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 5,000; Hyderabad, 9,000. Total, 555,000.

From Viceroy, 25*th November*, 1900.

Famine. Rain is still wanted in Bombay, Karnatak, Deccan, and Gujarat. Otherwise prospects are satisfactory. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 257,000; Central Provinces, 76,000; Berar, 28,000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, 3,000; Bombay Native States, 27,000; Baroda, 16,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 2,000; Hyderabad, 6,000. Total 420,000.

From Viceroy, 3*rd December*, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 239,000; Central Provinces, 50,000; Berar, 12,000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, 2,000; Bombay Native States, 12,000; Baroda, 14,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, relief discontinued; Hyderabad, 6,000. Total, 340,000.

From Viceroy, 18*th December*, 1900.

Famine. Bombay, 203,000; Central Provinces, 9,000; Berar relief discontinued; Rajputana, 1,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 11,000; Hyderabad, 4,000. Total, 244,000.

From Viceroy, 26*th December*, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 190,000; Central Provinces, 5,000; Rajputana, 1,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 11,000; Hyderabad, 4,000. Total, 227,000.

From Viceroy, 10*th December*, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 216,000; Central Provinces, 25,000; Berar, 4,000; Rajputana Native States, 5,000; Central India Native States, relief discontinued; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 11,000; Hyderabad, 4,000. Total, 282,000.

From Viceroy, 2*nd January*, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 157,000; Central Provinces, 5,000; Rajputana, 1,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 13,000; Hyderabad, 3,000. Total, 225,000.

From Viceroy, 8th January, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 187,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Rajputana, 1,000; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 13,000; Hyderabad, 3,000. Total, 225,000.

From Viceroy, 15th January, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 195,000; Central Provinces, relief discontinued; Rajputana, relief discontinued; Bombay Native States, 18,000; Baroda, 14,000; Hyderabad, 3,000; Madras, 1,000. Total, 231,000.

From Viceroy, 24th January, 1901.

Famine. Winter rainfall unusually good in Upper India, Rajputana, Central Provinces, Central India, and agricultural prospects very favourable. But in Gujerat, Deccan, and Karnatak districts of Bombay, through early cessation of monsoon in September and absence of rain, crop prospects bad, and serious distress expected between now and August. Relief measures will be required, and expenditure estimated at one crore during next financial year, besides large loss of revenue. Number on relief works not increasing rapidly at present, but will when harvest completed. Affected area also includes Baroda, and part of Hyderabad. Prices continue high in the affected tracts, but should drop when Upper India harvest is secured. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 196,000; Bombay Native States, 19,000; Baroda, 13,000; Hyderabad, 3,000; Madras, 2,000. Total, 233,000.

From Viceroy, 31st January, 1901.

Famine. Slight rain has fallen in parts of Bombay Presidency, including Sind, benefiting late spring crops, but prospects not materially improved. Scarcity deepening into famine anticipated in considerable portion of Hyderabad. Crop prospects continue favourable in Punjab, Upper and Central India. Good wheat harvest expected. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 183,000; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 13,000; Hyderabad, 3,000; Madras, 3,000. Total, 219,000.

From Viceroy, 5th February, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 175,000; Bombay Native States, 15,000; Baroda, 13,000; Hyderabad, nil; Madras, 3,000. Total, 206,000.

From Viceroy, 14th February, 1901.

Famine. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief show little increase, but greater pressure is expected in affected area after reaping of scanty harvests there. In Upper and Central India some damage by storm and damp has been done to crops which promised to be very good. This has checked the decline in prices. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 176,000; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 15,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 1,000. Total, 214,000.

From Viceroy, 18th February, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 171,000; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 16,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Madras, 4,000; Central India States, 1,000. Total, 211,000.

From Viceroy, 26th February, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 181,000; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 16,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 1,000. Total, 220,000.

From Viceroy, 6th March, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 177,000; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 17,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 2,000; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 219,000.

From Viceroy, 12th March, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 178,000; Bombay Native States, 18,000; Baroda, 17,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Madras, 4,000; Central India States, 3,000; Central Provinces, relief discontinued. Total, 222,000.

From Viceroy, 18th March, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 177,000; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 17,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Madras, 4,000; Central India States, 2,000. Total, 219,000.

From Viceroy, 25th March, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 180,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 10,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Madras, 4,000; Central India States, 3,000. Total, 215,000.

From Viceroy, 2nd April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 184,000; Bombay Native States, 17,000; Baroda, 14,000; Hyderabad, no report; Madras, 4,000; Central India States, 3,000. Total, 222,000.

From Viceroy, 9th April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 207,000; Bombay Native States, 27,000; Baroda, 15,000; Hyderabad, report not received; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 4,000. Total, 258,000.

From Viceroy, 16th April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 222,000; Bombay Native States, 30,000; Baroda, 16,000; Hyderabad, 14,000; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 4,000. Total, 291,000.

From Viceroy, 22nd April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 254,000; Bombay Native States, 27,000; Baroda, 18,000; Hyderabad, 17,000; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 4,000. Total, 325,000.

From Viceroy, 29th April, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 278,000; Bombay Native States, 26,000; Baroda, 19,000; Hyderabad, 19,000; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 4,000. Total, 351,000.

From Viceroy, 6th May, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 293,000; Bombay Native States, 29,000; Baroda, 20,000; Hyderabad, 25,000; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 5,000. Total, 377,000.

From Viceroy, 20th May, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 344,000; Bombay Native States, 29,000; Baroda, 21,000; Hyderabad, 14,000; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 4,000; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 418,000.

From Viceroy, 28th May, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 353,000; Bombay Native States, 41,000; Baroda, 26,000; Hyderabad, 14,000; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 6,000; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 446,000.

From Viceroy, 3rd June, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 366,000; Bombay Native States, 33,000; Baroda, 26,000; Hyderabad, 23,000; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 5,000; Central Provinces, 2,000. Total, 460,000.

From Viceroy, 12th June, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 384,000; Bombay Native States, 43,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, 19,000; Madras, 5,000; Central India States, 4,000; Central Provinces, 2,000. Total, 484,000.

Distress in Bombay has been much less than was apprehended. Prices fell during the spring, and though now prices show a tendency to rise they are 50 per cent. below those of May, 1900. In Gujarat grain everywhere obtainable at 16 seers per rupee, and in the Deccan and southern districts at 12 or 13 seers. In Deccan percentage of population on relief is:—Ahmednagar, 13 per cent.; Sholapur, 10; Bijapur, Poona, 6; elsewhere small. In Gujarat:—Kaira, Panch Mahals, 6; Ahmedabad, 4; elsewhere small. Total number on

relief works and gratuitous relief only 40 per cent. of that anticipated, and estimate of famine expenditure this year reduced by Bombay from over one crore to Rs. 34,50,000. We have been in correspondence with Bombay to ensure that care is taken to restrict relief to the really necessitous. With present range of prices, number on relief works may be expected to decline rapidly if monsoon normal and meteorological forecast is justified.

From Viceroy, 20th June, 1901.

Famine. North-west monsoon has not burst, but heavy rain has fallen at Bijapur and Sholapur, and preparations for monsoon crops progressing generally in Bombay. No material change in prices. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 400,000 ; Bombay Native States, 46,000 ; Baroda, 29,000 ; Hyderabad, 19,000 ; Central India States, 4,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central Provinces, 3,000. Total, 506,000.

From Viceroy, 28th June, 1901.

Famine. The numbers demanding relief have continued to increase in Bombay, and may be expected to rise till heavy and good general rainfall enables the people to commence cultivation and sowing. Except on the coast, rainfall light and scattered, and generally insufficient for the purpose of agriculture. Prices risen in the Deccan districts, but are not yet so high as in the famine of 1899–1900. Of headquarters of districts grain is dearest at Ahmednagar, where price is 11 seers per rupee. Highest price anywhere is 10 seers per rupee. The health and condition of the people are fairly good and exhibit no marked deterioration. Number of persons in receipt of relief on 22nd June:—Bombay, 430,000 ; Bombay Native States, 46,000 ; Baroda, 30,000 ; Hyderabad, 18,000 ; Madras, 5,000 ; Central India States, 1,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 531,000.

From Viceroy, 6th July, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall fairly heavy and general and unsteady on both coasts ; but in Bombay Deccan, Central Provinces, Eastern Bengal, Burma, Assam, rainfall has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes. In Gujarat rainfall up to date less than one inch, and more rain is urgently needed. Fall light and irregular in Western Bengal, Orissa, and Chota Nagpur. In North-West Provinces light scattered showers only. Punjab practically rainless. Prices do not indicate much present anxiety. Prices stationary in Punjab, North-West Provinces, Central Provinces ; fluctuating in both directions in Bengal ; rising in Madras, where, however, on the whole, prospects are fair. In Bombay they are still 100 per cent. below last year pitch in Gujarat and Khandesh, and are now here less than 25 per cent. below. Highest prices are Poona 10, Ahmednagar 11 seers per rupee. Bombay death-rate below normal, being less than two per thousand in six districts, and rising to four per thousand in Dharwar only. Physical condition of the people reported to be generally satisfactory in distressed area, except two taluks, Ahmednagar. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief in Bombay has risen considerably. Number of persons in receipt of relief for the week ending 29th June last :— Bombay, 472,000 ; Bombay Native States, 53,000 ; Baroda, 31,000 ; Hyderabad, 16,000 ; Madras, 4,000 ; Central India States, 7,000 ; Central Provinces, 2,000. Total, 585,000.

From Viceroy, 13th July, 1901.

Famine. Prospects much improved. Sufficient rain has fallen generally for sowings except in the case of Punjab and Gujarat. In part of Gujarat only a few light showers have been received as yet, and rain urgently wanted there and in part of Deccan, where uncertainty regarding prospects still unfavourable for reduction of famine relief. No material change in prices. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 486,000 ; Bombay Native States, 50,000 ; Baroda, 31,000 ; Hyderabad, 13,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Central India States, 1,000 ; Central Provinces, 4000. Total, 588,000.

From Viceroy, 20th July, 1901.

Famine. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 492,000 ; Bombay Native States, 43,000 ; Baroda, 30,000 ; Hyderabad, 11,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Central India States, 4,000 ; Central Provinces, 1,000. Total, 584.000.

From Viceroy, 27th July, 1901.

Famine. Prospects have improved by light and uncertain but general rain, much below the average, but it is sufficient for the present except in the case of Deccan, Gujarat, West Punjab, and in part of Central India and Rajputana, where sowing operations have been retarded. No general injury as yet. Prices do not indicate apprehension. In Bombay numbers on works have decreased by 39,000 and number on gratuitous relief increased 6,000. June death-rate per *mille* affected districts below 2, except in the case of Ahmednagar, where it is 2·31. Physical condition of the people reported to be generally satisfactory except in part of Ahmednagar and Sholapur where some deterioration still apparent. Number of persons in receipt of relief :—Bombay, 461,000 ; Bombay Native States, 42,000 ; Baroda, 30,000 ; Hyderabad, 10,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Central India States, 6,000 ; Central Provinces, 4,000. Total, 556,000.

From Viceroy, 3rd August, 1901.

Famine. Rain has continued and though total to date in inland districts only about half normal, prospects generally good. Prices have fallen in eight Bombay Districts last week. Reduction of relief confined to Kaira, and figures this week show no change of any importance, but a considerable reduction shortly expected. Number of persons in receipt of relief :— Bombay, 455,000 ; Bombay Native States, 42,000 ; Baroda, 32,000 ; Hyderabad, 9,000 ; Madras, 3,000 ; Central India States, 5,000 ; Central Provinces ; 4,000 ; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 553,000.

From Viceroy, 10th August, 1901.

Famine prospects much improved by heavy rain, and prospects now favourable generally. Total rainfall below average of the period over a large part of country, and in Gujarat has only been third of local average ; but falls have been timely, and deficiency has caused no material change in the prospects of the crops. Prices falling, but still high. In Central Provinces, North Deccan, and in part of Madras and Assam, prices have risen slightly, and on the fall in Gujarat. Number on gratuitous relief and on relief work in Bombay remain larger than expected, Kaira alone showing substantial

decrease from 52,000 to 11,000 since middle July. Decrease not extended Ahmedabad. In Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Poona, numbers stationary; and have increased in Satara and Belgaum. Expediency of reducing extent relief under consideration with Government of Bombay. Reports from affected districts indicate no cause for anxiety in physical condition of the people. High prices reported to be causing hardship to poorest classes in limited areas, Madras and Assam; but minor measures of relief already taken will be sufficient for their assistance till prices fall with autumn harvest. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 448,000; Bombay Native States, 42,000; Baroda, 31,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Madras, 3,000; Central India States, 1,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, nil. Total, 537,000.

From Viceroy, 17th August, 1901.

Famine. Good and general rain has continued; and though total amount is only three-quarters of normal in Upper and Central India and half normal in Gujarat, prospects fair in Bengal, Bombay, Madras, good elsewhere. Early rice harvest has relieved local distress Assam. In part of Central Provinces a break is wanted, but more rain is much wanted in Bengal for rice transplanting, also in part of Gujarat, Madras, and Bombay Deccan, Madura, and Mysore. Prices falling Madras, Central Provinces; stationary elsewhere. July death-rate per *mille* for Bombay affected area below two in all districts except Surat, Satara, Sholapur, Bijapur, where between two and 2·50. In southern districts rate higher, reaching five in Belgaum, apparently consequent on plague. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief fallen Bombay by 15,000, Baroda 5,000. Reduction of relief large in Kaira, where during past month numbers fallen from 50,000 to 6,000. In Ahmedabad improved conditions have influenced numbers very little, and elsewhere decrease small or increase has occurred. All relief operations have been closed in Madras. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 438,000; Bombay Native States, 44,000; Baroda, 26,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Relief discontinued in Madras; Central India States, 5,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, 4,000. Total 529,000.

From Viceroy, 24th August, 1901.

Famine. Week's rainfall has been very deficient in parts of Madras (South), West Punjab, inland Burma; fair rain has fallen elsewhere, but irregularly distributed, and does not make up the deficiency in total to date. Generally agricultural prospects fairly favourable, but more rain is urgently needed in part of Gujarat, Bombay and Madras Deccan, Madras (South) and generally in rice districts throughout the country. Excessive rain has caused damage in North Central Provinces. Prices tending downwards generally and have fallen substantially in Gujarat and in part of Bombay Deccan. The decline in the number of persons demanding relief mainly confined to Gujarat, not yet extended to Deccan districts. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 423,000; Bombay Native States, 41,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Central India States, 2,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 507,000.

From Viceroy, 31st August, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall slight except in Central Provinces, Eastern Bengal, Burma; and total to date generally largely below the average. Prospects continue favourable except in Kathiawar, in part of which rainfall has been less than four inches up to date, where there is apprehension of failure of crops

should no rain fall. More rain is wanted generally in Punjab, Gujarat, Deccan, Madura, Upper Burma; but Central Provinces require break. Prices stationary in Bengal, Madras; falling North-Western Provinces, Central Provinces; rising Punjab, and showing no change of importance in Bombay. Cheapest grain fallen to 20 sirs per rupee in part of Gujarat, and after a small rise is still 18 sirs Ahmedabad. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 22,000 in Bombay. Decrease largest in Gujarat. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 403,000; Bombay Native States, 39,000; Baroda, 26,000; Hyderabad, 8,000; Central India States, 3,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, figures not reported. Total, 483,000.

From Viceroy, 9th September, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall has been concentrated in Burma, Bengal, Central Provinces, and North-Western Provinces. Elsewhere rainfall light and scattered. Very little rain in Southern Punjab, Gujarat, Deccan, and Madras (South), where it was most required. Crops are withering in Hissar, Kathiawar, and Baroda; and prospects now not so good in Madras, where poorer classes are hard pressed and good early harvest much needed. Complaints have been received from Bombay Deccan, where, however, cotton promises well. Excessive rain has caused damage in part of Central Provinces. Elsewhere prospects are favourable, and there is a marked improvement in Upper Burma. Slight rise of prices in Madras (South), Madras and Bombay Deccan; falling Gujarat and Khandesh; elsewhere there is no change. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 31,000 in Bombay (half by reduction of number receiving charitable relief). Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 374,000; Bombay Native States, 37,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, 6,000; Central India States, 5,000; Central Provinces, 4,000; Mysore, report not received. Total, 453,000.

From Viceroy, 14th September, 1901.

Prospects have improved by good rain, Bengal, North-West Provinces, parts Madras, and by break in Central Provinces. The Punjab has been practically rainless, and crops suffering seriously in South-West Division, though elsewhere still reported fair. More rain is needed for grain crops in Gujarat and Deccan, where only a few light showers have been received, but where cotton still promises well. August death-rates in Bombay affected districts show a rise, particularly in Gujarat, but are below 3 per 1,000, except in the case of Sholapur, Dharwar, Belgaum. Rate of Sholapur, 3·72. Rates of two latter much higher owing to plague. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 25,000 in Bombay, mostly among number on gratuitous relief; but gradual tightening of conditions of work relief as harvest approaches will result shortly in Bombay. Grant of gratuitous relief has been found necessary in part of Madras, Assam. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 350,000; Bombay Native States, 37,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, 6,000; Madras, numbers not reported; Central India States, 1,000; Central Provinces, relief discontinued; Mysore, 1,000. Total, 422,000.

From Viceroy, 21st September, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall has been generally confined to Southern India and Burma; elsewhere only scattered showers. Apparent cessation of monsoon causes some anxiety. Prospects have improved in Madras, and now reported fair; the same Bengal, where, however, there has been extensive damage by floods in places in consequence of heavy rain last week. Crop prospects good

in North-West Provinces generally, but more rain is needed in Central Doab and parts Oudh. In South Punjab, Rajputana, unfavourable conditions during past week have intensified, and crops are withering over large area. Grain crops in Gujarat, Deccan, also in urgent need of more rain, though cotton still promises well. Rain is wanted generally everywhere, but a cyclone now crossing Orissa coast may improve situation. Prices are rising gradually, though no change of any importance in Bombay yet. Owing to unfavourable outlook number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 13,000 only. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 341,000; Bombay Native States, 35,000; Baroda, 25,000; Hyderabad, 6,000; Madras, not yet reported; Central India States, 1,000; Mysore, 1,000. Total, 409,000.

From Viceroy, 28th September, 1901.

Famine. Rain has improved prospects greatly in Bengal, Central Provinces, parts eastern and central North-Western Provinces, and Bombay Deccan, securing standing crops and *rabi* sowings. General rain has fallen also Madras, but none in parts of country where need greatest, namely, Kathiawar, Rajputana, Southern Punjab. Complaints have been received also from Malwa, Indore, and North-Western Provinces (West). In Punjab general prospects are favourable still, but rain is wanted. Prices are rising in Punjab, Rajputana, Bombay Deccan. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 18,000 Bombay, mainly in number receiving charitable relief. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 323,000; Bombay Native States, 35,000; Baroda, 28,000; Hyderabad, 5,000; Madras, numbers not reported; Central India States, 1,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 394,000.

From Viceroy, 7th October, 1901.

Little or no rain has fallen except in Burma, Bengal, Madras, Bombay Deccan; and situation gives cause for anxiety in Punjab, North-Western Provinces (West), Rajputana, Indore, Kathiawar, where rain is wanted in order to avert widespread failure unirrigated autumn crops, as well as enable spring sowings. For latter purpose one month remains within which a fall would be of immense benefit. Prices are rising in tracts above-mentioned, but not to alarming extent; falling, Deccan. Prospects good in Madras, Bengal, Bombay Deccan; fair to good Central Provinces and the greater portion of North-Western Provinces. Number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 31,000 in Bombay, mainly, it is believed, in consequence of enforcement of stricter terms on works. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 293,000; Bombay Native States, 31,000; Baroda, 29,000; Hyderabad, 4,000; Madras, numbers not reported; Central India States, 1,000; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 361,000.

From Viceroy, 12th October, 1901.

Famine. Rainfall still confined to Assam, Bengal, Burma, Madras, South Deccan, where prospects good. Favourable report also from the greater portion of North-Western Provinces, but in Central Provinces and North Deccan more rain is needed in order to secure fair crops and enable full rabi sowings. Punjab, North-Western Provinces, Rajputana, Indore, Kathiawar, fallen off in condition, and, over large tracts, kharif crops have totally failed, and rabi will be unsown should no rain fall. Prices as yet do not indicate public anxiety. Dearest rate in Bombay, eleven seers per rupee at Ahmednagar. In Bombay number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease of 46,000. Death rate per mille September below 2·6 in affected districts of Deccan. Number of persons

in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 247,000; Bombay Native States, 27,000; Baroda, 26,000; Haidarabad, 2,000; Madras and Central India States, relief discontinued; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 305,000.

From Viceroy, 21st October, 1901.

Famine. As a consequence of cyclonic storm there has been good rain in Bengal, Orissa, Central Provinces (East), Hyderabad; beneficial showers Berar, North Deccan, Gujarat. Prospects have improved in Rajputana by substantial but scattered falls, but outturn of autumn crops will be bad throughout Gujarat, Malwa, Bhopawar, and Rajputana. In Ajmer and Punjab they have mostly failed on unirrigated land, and *rabi* sowings will be very short should no rain fall within next fortnight. In north Central Provinces rice has failed, and here also *rabi* area will be much below the average. Elsewhere prospects fair to good. No marked fluctuation in prices generally, but fallen substantially Ahmednagar. Reduction continues in number on relief works in Bombay. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 202,000; Bombay, Native States, 22,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, 1,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 254,000.

From Viceroy, 26th October, 1901.

Famine. Scattered showers have been of benefit in Rajputana, Central India, and the Bombay Presidency, and outlook in the Deccan has somewhat improved. There is no change in prospects generally. The outturn of autumn crops will be very short in the Punjab, Rajputana, in part of Central India, and Gujarat. There will also be deficiency in the outturn of rice crops of Behar, the Benares division, and some tracts of limited area in the Central Provinces. Number on relief works decreasing rapidly. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 162,000; Bombay Native States, 19,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, figures not received; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 210,000 [*sic*].

From Viceroy, 2nd November, 1901.

Famine. Rain confined to Burma and Madras, and prospects unaltered generally. North-east monsoon has set in on east coast (south), but with current below the average strength. Outlook gloomy in South Punjab, parts Central India, Rajputana, and in latter area distribution of relief has been commenced. Prices, however, remain low or moderate. They have fallen substantially in Bombay Deccan, and even in Gujarat, where kharif outturn very short, and *rabi* sowing operations have been retarded owing to want of rain. Elsewhere on the whole conditions are favourable, except in the case of limited areas of North-Western Provinces and Central Provinces. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 131,000; Bombay Native States, 21,000; Baroda, 27,000; Hyderabad, relief discontinued; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 182,000.

From Viceroy, 12th November, 1901.

Famine. Autumn crops have deteriorated, and sowings spring crops retarded for want of rain in part of Bombay, Central Provinces, North-West Provinces, and to more serious extent in Baroda State, in part of Rajputana, Assam and South Punjab. Test works likely to be opened at Hissar in the Punjab. Prospects of winter rice crops are indifferent in Bengal, especially in Behar. Elsewhere generally prospects are favourable. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 108,000; Bombay Native States, 18,000; Baroda, 29,000; Mysore, 3,000. Total, 158,000.

From Viceroy, 16th November, 1901.

Famine. Prospects continue gloomy in South Punjab and Rajputana, owing to bad autumn harvest and want of rain delaying spring sowings. Test works contemplated Punjab, but not yet opened. In Central India, Baroda and the part of Bombay Presidency adjoining, and in part of Central Provinces and North-Western Provinces, rain is wanted for spring cultivation. There is no present cause for anxiety. Elsewhere generally prospects are favourable. There has been good rain recently throughout Madras Presidency, and showers have fallen in parts of Bengal. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 72,000; Bombay Natives States, 11,000; Baroda, 27,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 112,000.

From Viceroy, 23rd November, 1901.

Famine. Position remains much as before. Prospects bad in South Punjab, where, however, test works have not been started yet; and in Rajputana. In part of Bombay, Baroda, Central Provinces, and Central India spring crops' prospects are poor, owing to deficient rainfall, but autumn crops are expected to be not much below the average, except in the case of Gujarat, where they are poor. Rain has fallen during the week over Madras Presidency, Central Provinces (East), deltaic Bengal, Cachar, and Burma. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 53,000; Bombay Native States, 15,000; Baroda, 27,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 97,000.

From Viceroy, 30th November, 1901.

Famine. Sowings for spring crops on unirrigated areas in Punjab and Rajputana still delayed for want of rain, and probability of relief works in these areas increases. Elsewhere sowings now in progress, but deficient rainfall makes prospects indifferent, especially in Gujarat and Baroda. On the whole prospects are fair in Madras, Bengal, Burma, Assam, and North-Western Provinces. Severe cyclonic storm travelled from 24th to 27th instant along eastern half Bengal, and filled up in Eastern Bengal, detailed report not received yet, but it is believed that no grave damage done. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 48,000; Bombay Native States, 16,000; Baroda, 26,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 92,000.

From Viceroy, 7th December, 1901.

Famine. Good rain has fallen in Madras. Elsewhere prospects unaltered. Test works being opened in South Punjab districts, where, however, wandering in search of work is reported to be decreasing. There has been a considerable fall of prices in Bombay Deccan, where they are from 14 to 17 seers per rupee; they are still lower in Gujarat. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 42,000; Bombay Native States, 20,000; Baroda, 27,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 91,000.

From Viceroy, 14th December, 1901.

Famine. There has been good rain again in Madras. Elsewhere there is no change in prospects. Test relief works opened in Hissar, and gratuitous relief started on a small scale in some states of Rajputana and Central India; but prices are not generally high in this area, and are below 12 seers per rupee one State only. The number of people on relief works has increased slowly in

Kathiawar and Guzarat. In Deccan relief has been practically closed except in Bijapur. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 46,000; Bombay Native States, 19,000; Baroda, 29,000; Mysore, 2,000. Total, 96,000.

From Viceroy, 21*st December*, 1901.

Famine. Prospects unaltered, cold weather rains not having commenced. Distress is not rapidly developing. Prices moderate in affected districts; highest in Rajputana. The numbers demanding relief have continued to increase slowly in Gujarat, where, however, dearest price is reported to be 17 seers per rupee. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 53,000; Bombay Native States, 21,000; Baroda, 30,000; Mysore, 2,000; Rajputana States, 1,000. Total, 107,000.

From Viceroy, 30*th December*, 1901.

Famine. No rain. There is no change in prospects. Relief operations extending slowly Gujarat, chiefly in Panch Mahals, and Ahmedabad districts, where, however, prices moderate. Prices higher Punjab and Rajputana, but in Hissar test relief works opened are not resorted to in large numbers, and relief on trifling scale as yet suffices for Rajputana. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 61,000; Bombay Native States, 23,000; Baroda, 30,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 1,000; Punjab, 1,000. Total, 117,000.

From Viceroy, 6*th January*, 1902.

Famine. Light and scattered showers have fallen in parts of North-Western Provinces and Punjab, but cold weather rains continue to hold off. Prospects unaltered generally. Out-turn has proved better than was anticipated in Bombay. Course of prices continues reassuring: prices have fallen in Bombay and in affected districts, Punjab, and are high only in Rajputana. Test relief works opened in Punjab are not drawing, and relief there is inconsiderable and mainly gratuitous; also small in Rajputana, but has been extended in Gujarat, where numbers increased by 18,000, mainly on relief works. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 81,000; Bombay Native States, 22,000; Baroda, 31,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 2,000; Punjab, 3,000. Total 140,000.

From Viceroy, 13*th January*, 1902.

Famine. Light scattered showers have fallen in parts of Bihar, Central Provinces, Rajputana, and Gujarat, sufficient in places to benefit crops. Prices are rising in Gujarat, but cheapest grain still procurable at 16 seers per rupee; they are practically stationary elsewhere. Relief continues unimportant in Punjab and Rajputana. Numbers have increased by 14,000 in Gujarat, mainly in Panch Mahals. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 95,000; Bombay Native States, 22,000; Baroda, 33,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 2,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 1,000. Total, 157,000.

From Viceroy, 20*th January*, 1902.

Famine. No rain; but prospects have improved by last week's showers, specially in North-Western Provinces. Prices are generally stationary. Outlook in Punjab and Rajputana less serious than anticipated; distress

developing very slowly, and in latter tract likely to be acute only in case of aboriginal tribes. In Gujarat relief extending rapidly, numbers having increased by 12,000, mainly on works in Panch Mahals. December death-rates in Gujarat are: Ahmedabad, 5·07; Kaira, 5·83; Panch Mahals, 2·21. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 107,000; Bombay Native States, 24,000; Baroda, 34,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 9,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 3,000. Total, 181,000.

From Viceroy, 25th January, 1902.

Absence of rain and drought are affecting spring crops in Bengal and North-Western Provinces, as well as in Punjab. Autumn crops reported fair, Sind and Bombay Deccan. Prices show no tendency to rise in Bombay, and are much lower than in Rajputana, where, however, they are not higher than 12 seers per rupee. Numbers on relief works continue to increase rapidly Gujarat, slowly Rajputana, but remain stationary Punjab. Relief works started in parts of Central India, but numbers attending are not considerable. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 121,000; Bombay Native States, 26,000; Baroda, 35,000; Mysore, 1,000; Rajputana, 12,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 4,000; Central India, 6,000. Total, 208,000.

From Viceroy, 3rd February, 1902.

Famine. No rain having fallen situation unaltered generally. Prices show no tendency to rise. They continue highest Rajputana, where they reach 11 seers per rupee; but distress apparently not spreading, and relief still on a small scale. Circumstances similar Punjab. In Gujarat, where grain is 16 seers per rupee, numbers relieved continue to rise rapidly, and 15,000 added during week. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 136,000; Bombay Native States, 29,000; Baroda, 33,000; Mysore, discontinued; Rajputana, 12,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmir Merwara, 4,000; Central India, 6,000. Total, 223,000.

From Viceroy, 8th February, 1902.

Famine. No rain has fallen. Prospects in affected districts deteriorating owing to damage caused by rats, of which there is a plague in Gujarat, Rajputana and Central India. No change in prices. Relief continues expand rapidly Gujarat, and develops Rajputana, Central India. In Punjab it is inconsiderable still. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 167,000; Bombay Native States, 33,000; Baroda, 35,000; Rajputana, 17,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 4,000; Central India, 21,000. Total, 280,000.

From Viceroy, 15th February, 1902.

Famine. No rain. Prospects unaltered. Distress is not increasing in Punjab, where prices continue low. In Native States, Rajputana, Central India, relief is being gradually extended, chiefly in hilly tracts near Bombay border. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief in Bombay rising rapidly; distress mainly localised to Gujarat, but relief operations in Ahmednagar and Khandesh expanding. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 183,000; Bombay Native States, 34,000; Baroda, 34,000; Rajputana, 21,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 5,000; Central India, 27,000. Total, 307,000.

From Viceroy, 23rd February, 1902.

Famine. In Northern and Central India scattered showers have fallen, but not sufficient to do any material good. Practically no change in prices. Test relief works closed Hissar, where situation is met by gratuitous relief on a small scale. Number on relief works and gratuitous relief risen Native States, but not considerably. Returns show no rise in Bombay districts, but they may not be complete. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 183,000; Bombay Native States, 39,000; Baroda, 34,000; Rajputana, 22,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 6,000; Central India, 25,000. Total, 312,000.

From Viceroy, 1st March, 1902.

Famine. Rainfall light and scattered, of no use to affected tracts. No material change in prices. Numbers on relief works continue to increase gradually in Rajputana and Central India. Bombay returns show large increase probably due in part to under statement last week. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 219,000; Bombay Native States, 39,000; Baroda, 36,000; Rajputana, 24,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 7,000; Central India, 31,000. Total, 359,000.

From Viceroy, 8th March, 1902.

Famine. No rain, no change in prices generally. Extension of relief operations continues Gujarat and neighbouring States, Rajputana, to which acute distress is confined still. Numbers relieved are diminishing Central India, and there is no material increase Deccan. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 228,000; Bombay Native States, 38,000; Baroda, 37,000; Rajputana, 26,000; Punjab, 3,000; Ajmer Merwara, 9,000; Central India, 28,000. Total, 369,000.

From Viceroy, 16th March, 1902.

Famine. Good rain has fallen in Assam, Bengal. None elsewhere. Prices are generally stationary. Numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief increased by 28,000, half of which contributed by Gujarat Districts. Number on relief works increasing rapidly in Rajputana, Central India; but relief operations not yet required on a large scale. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 247,000; Bombay Native States, 41,000; Baroda, 36,000; Rajputana, 33,000; Punjab, 2,000; Ajmer Merwara, 9,000; Central India, 35,000.

II.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

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REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

MONTHLY REPORTS.

(*N.B.—The detailed Famine Statements are not printed but general statistics of the numbers on relief at the end of each month will be found at* pp. 499–541.)

No. 1.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 1403, *dated Pachmarhi, the* 23*rd May*, 1900.

I am directed to submit the monthly famine statements for the four weeks ending the 28th April, 1900, with a map illustrating the distribution and intensity of distress.

2. As was anticipated in the last report, distress has begun to deepen. The partial and temporary relief which harvest operations and mahua-picking gave has passed away, except in small areas in the northern districts, in which the rabi crops returned a moderate yield. Even in these areas there are indications of slight distress, and it is now correct to say that the whole province is distressed, a sprinkling of kitchens with cash doles to pauper incapables being necessary even in the most favoured tracts.

3. The following table shows the numbers on the different forms of relief on the 31st March and the 28th April respectively :—

Division.		Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.
Jubbulpore	31st March, 1900	66,529	5,272	22,896	7,137	35,305	91,834
	28th April, 1900	59,958	5,301	36,436	13,118	54,855	114,813
Nerbudda ...	31st March, 1900	184,109	28,837	39,326	23,712	91,875	275,984
	28th April, 1900	186,841	26,648	50,869	22,510	100,027	286,868
Nagpur ...	31st March, 1900	256,871	32,282	55,818	44,393	132,493	389,364
	28th April, 1900	316,979	36,144	74,693	45,574	156,411	473,390
Chhattisgarh	31st March, 1900	574,294	54,944	158,231	27,566	240,741	815,035
	28th April, 1900	614,683	55,005	195,930	28,502	279,437	894,120
Total ...	31st March, 1900	1,071,803	121,335	276,271	102,808	500,414	1,572,217
	28th April, 1900	1,178,461	123,098	357,928	109,704	590,730	1,769,191

The various kinds of employment on which those entered in column 2 of the above table as workers are engaged is shown below :—

Division.	Public Works Department Relief Works.	Village Works.	Fodder and Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.
Jubbulpore	36,298	23,660	—	—
Nerbudda	131,421	41,192	7,909	6,319
Nagpur	246,141	45,202	5,563	20,073
Chhattisgarh...	264,063	349,245	978	397
Total	677,923	459,299	14,450	26,789

4. The total on all forms of relief has risen during the month by very nearly 200,000 people, of whom over seven-eighths belong to the south of the Province. The greatest increase is returned from Chanda :—72,000 at the end of March, and 141,000 at the end of April. It is reported from that district (which has been for the first time severely distressed) that large numbers of people held back until the mahua harvest in the hope that this would prevent them coming on relief at all. The partial failure of this source of food has now driven them on, and a still further increase is expected.

In the two northern divisions the increase in the number of workers has been small, but gratuitous relief has been considerably expanded. Sick persons leaving works and disappointed mahua-pickers rendered this necessary, especially in the Saugor district, where the number of paupers is exceptionally large and there is greater reluctance than elsewhere on the part of adults to accept cooked food at kitchens.

For the most distressed districts the numbers on all forms of relief at the end of March and April are shown below :—

District.	Population.	Total on all forms of Relief.	
		At end of March.	At end of April.
Nimar...	286,000	53,398	57,269
Betul	323,000	93,303	93,997
Wardha	400,000	59,253	65,567
Chanda	697,000	71,989	141,273
Bhandara	742,000	119,860	114,694
Balaghat	383,000	94,989	97,824
Raipur	1,584,000	547,976	593,489
Bilaspur	1,164,000	244,687	265,368

In order to keep pace with the increasing distress it has been necessary to increase the Public Works Department camps from 164 to 180, to open a large number of additional Village Works, to extend kitchen relief, and to expand the village cash dole lists.

5. To turn now to the various forms of relief, it will be observed that the increase in the numbers employed on Public Works Department relief-works has been very small. Cholera caused an exodus on certain works in Wardha, and an attempt to draft workers from a Bhandara camp to Nagpur gave rise to a panic and temporary desertion ; while the opening of more Village Works as the hot weather advances, with a view of getting people back to their villages,

has also caused some decrease on Public Works Department works, which has nearly counterbalanced the general increase. Of the 200,000 persons added to the numbers on relief during the month, just half represent the increase on Village Works. There is little difference in the numbers shown on forest works and weaver relief.

6. As stated in paragraph 8 of last month's report, it was found necessary to relax somewhat the severity of the tests imposed in districts in which mortality showed a tendency to increase, or the condition of the people to deteriorate, and this policy has been carried out in such tracts, with due caution, by Commissioners. Some expansion of gratuitous relief was also necessary, and there were 2,226 kitchens open at the end of April as compared with 1,866 at the beginning. The kitchen attendance has risen from 276,000 to 358,000, a rise of 82,000 as compared with 70,000 reported in March. Of the total fed at kitchens over 71,000, or a fifth, are adults. The village relief lists show but a small increase at present, but an expansion of these will be necessary before long. The total receiving gratuitous relief of all kinds is just about a third of the total on relief, but the proportion is likely to increase as the rains approach.

7. The general condition of the people cannot be described as bad, though emaciation among very young infants continues to be observed. The tendency of people to save at relief-works at the expense of their condition has been observed in some places, and stray cases of persons in reduced condition are occasionally to be met with, but on the whole the people display no visible signs of famine in their features. The difficulties of the situation are aggravated in the western districts by the failure of the water-supply. Although complete arrangements have been made to secure pure water at all relief-camps, and a very large number of temporary wells have been dug by famine labour, and by the people themselves, there remain in many places in the beds of rivers and streams stagnant pools of polluted water. Strenuous efforts are made to prevent relief workers at camps from taking water from these vitiated sources ; but while it is difficult to enforce this even at the camps, it is quite impossible to do so over the country generally. This has occasioned a rise in mortality in the western districts. Another cause which contributes to increased mortality is the strong dislike, in some districts, of relief workers who fall sick to attend the camp hospitals. Stringent orders have been issued to officers-in-charge of works and the hospital assistants to pass along the gangs and treat cases of illness among the workers. Cases in which this duty is neglected have come to light at inspections, but even where it is regularly performed the unreasoning dread of a hospital with which the ignorant classes are so deeply imbued tends to concealment of sickness, and the sick man struggles back to his village and not infrequently dies, when proper treatment and nourishing food might have saved him. Added to these causes, which operate generally to increase mortality, cholera has been severe in Chhattisgarh and Nimar, and small-pox has also carried off a number of victims in Chhattisgarh, Nimar, Chanda, Nagpur and Hoshangabad.

No less than 11 per cent. of the deaths recorded in the month have been due to these epidemic diseases.

The highest mortality returns for March are as follows :—

District.	Total.	Excluding Epidemics.
Nimar	7·28	6·45
Betul	5·05	4·91
Sambalpur	4·98	3·56
Chanda	4·11	3·63
Wardha	3·71	3·70
Raipur	3·35	3·02
Hoshangabad	3·28	2·97
Nagpur	3·22	2·88
Chhindwara	3·03	3·03

On the other hand, the death-rates continue to be very low in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division, in Narsinghpur and in Balaghat; while in Bilaspur the death-rate is only 2·74 including, and 2·51 excluding, deaths from epidemic diseases.

8. The death-rate in Nimar is still the only one which is really high considering the times through which we are passing. The country has been covered with kitchens, and nearly 23 per cent. of the population are on relief. Village-to-village inquiries disclose no signs of severe privation among the regular inhabitants, while it is found that the deaths have occurred quite as much among the well-to-do as among the poor. Bad water is believed to be one of the chief causes. It is, however, necessary to state that considerable forest areas have been colonised in Nimar since the last census, and that the present population includes a number of temporary famine immigrants from the neighbouring districts and Native States. The birth-rate of March was just under 5 per mille on the supposed population, and the death-rate in the corresponding month of 1899, when the district was perfectly prosperous and prices low, was 4·65 per mille. The decennial mean of the month is 3·76 per mille, so that although the death-rate must from any view be regarded as serious, it is not so excessive as might at first sight appear.

10. The provincial rate (exclusive of the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris) was 3·11 per mille, or, deaths from epidemic diseases being deducted, 2·84. In the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris the death-rate was 4·58, but it was in these areas that cholera was most virulent, and the rate, exclusive of epidemics, drops to 3·02 per mille. During April there have been further outbreaks of cholera in Wardha and Raipur, and the disease has appeared in many districts. The mortality of April will be reported next month as complete returns have not yet been received.

11. There is little to remark regarding prices and imports. The latter continue brisk, though it is said that their volume is somewhat less than a month or two back. Prices are much as before, but there has been some rise in Betul, Nimar and Chhindwara; elsewhere there are very small fluctuations.

12. Orders were issued early in the month laying down the procedure to be followed in the distribution of the takavi advances for which the Government of India have recently made such a liberal allotment to the Central Provinces. It has also been arranged that the distribution of grants for the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund shall be carried on *pari passu* with the takavi advances.

13. A conference of all the Commissioners was held at Pachmarhi on the 20th and 21st of April to consider the measures necessary for relief arrangements in the rains. The result of these deliberations has been embodied in Famine Circular No. 49 of the 7th May, copy of which must have reached the Government of India in the ordinary course.

The general principles adopted are :—

(i.) That large Public Works Department relief-works cannot be profitably maintained as the backbone of relief during the rains, but that a limited number will be kept open, suitable shelter being provided, to give employment to those who refuse to return to their villages.

(ii.) That it will be the business of Government not to supply employment and wages to the labouring population in the rains, but to supplement such deficiency as may occur in wages.

(iii.) That this can best be done by supporting the dependants of all labourers, principally by means of kitchens, but partly by village doles.

(iv.) That a limited number of able-bodied labourers will be given doles for a month where agricultural employment is slack. This will be given only in return for work to be exacted by the village headmen, and only in the most distressed districts.

14. In conclusion, I am to attach, for communication to the Foreign Department, a report by Mr. Sly, Political Agent of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories, relating to the famine arrangements carried on in those States. Distress is increasing in these States, as in the British districts, and the scourge of cholera has been very severe, but the arrangements to cope with the growing distress, which are clearly described by Mr. Sly, appear to the Officiating Chief Commissioner to be adequate.

No. 2.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 1602, *dated Pachmarhi, the* 16*th June*, 1900.

I am directed to submit the usual famine statements and map for the period ending the 26th May, 1900.

2. The month just closed represents the period at the close of the hot weather when the conditions are most trying and employment most scanty. The water-supply has been low, the heat excessive, and cholera epidemic. Preparation of land for the approaching kharif sowings has been in progress where showers had softened the surface, but this does not create an appreciable demand for labour. A certain number of cultivators have returned to their villages towards the close of the month, but numbers on works have generally risen or remained constant, while there has been a further expansion of gratuitous relief. Distress has already spread over the Province; it has increased in intensity during the month.

3. The following table shows the numbers on different forms of relief on the 28th April and 26th May respectively :—

Division.		Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.
Jubbulpore ...	28th April, 1900	59,958	5,301	36,436	13,118	54,855	114,813
	26th May ,	73,125	5,047	61,750	18,061	84,858	157,983
Nerbudda ...	28th April „	186,841	26,648	50,869	22,510	100,027	286,868
	26th May „	187,791	26,923	85,874	18,786	131,583	319,374
Nagpur ...	28th April „	316,979	36,144	74,693	45,574	156,411	473,390
	26th May „	333,066	38,093	112,719	43,887	194,699	527,765
sgarh	28th April „	614,683	55,005	195,930	28,502	279,437	894,120
	26th May „	626,720	60,994	232,875	30,932	324,801	951,521
	28th April „	1,178,461	123,098	357,928	109,704	590,730	1,769,191
	6th May „	1,220,702	131,057	493,218	111,666	735,941	1,956,643

forms of relief has thus increased during the month by no
y large increase, but not greater than was expected to
ther period in the forecast submitted in January last.

4. The various kinds of employment, on which those entered in column 2 of the table given above as workers are engaged is shown below :—

Division.	Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Fodder and Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.
Jubbulpore	36,597	36,528	—	—
Nerbudda	126,676	42,624	11,834	6,657
Nagpur	246,174	57,608	8,889	20,395
Chhattisgarh...	262,293	363,852	465	110
Total ...	671,740	500,612	21,188	27,162
Compare for April ...	677,923	459,299	14,450	26,789

The number of Public Works Department camps has been increased from 180 to 191, but the total attendance on these major works shows some decrease. The average numbers in any one camp is now not under 4,000 people, and with cholera rampant or at any time likely to break out, it is necessary to keep the numbers within manageable limits. Some of the reduction is due to the drafting of weakly workers to village relief in accordance with the programme prescribed for the rains, and there has also been a tendency in some places for cultivators to return to their villages. The numbers employed on Village Works have risen still further. The increase has been common to all Divisions, but is less in the Nerbudda Division than elsewhere. Those employed on Village Works should readily return to their ordinary work as soon as the rains are established, when it will be impossible to keep those works open ; and every effort has been made to complete the tanks and leave as little unfinished work as possible. There has been some increase in the number of those employed on forest works, but weaver relief has been practically stationary.

5. It is, however, in the domain of gratuitous relief that the largest expansion has taken place. At the end of March there were 500,000 people on gratuitous belief, at the end of April 590,000, and by the end of May the numbers had risen to 736,000. Thus the numbers on gratuitous relief now considerably exceed the maximum numbers on all forms of relief at any time in the last famine. This large distribution of gratuitous relief is explained by the intensity of distress in the rice districts, and in Nimar and Betul, and has been largely necessitated by the failure of the mahua crop, on which the labouring classes depend so greatly for their sustenance in May. The principal form which gratuitous relief has taken has been the issue of cooked food at kitchens. The extent to which kitchens have been increased is shown by the following figures :—

—	Number of Kitchens.	Number of Persons Fed.
At the end of March ...	1,866	276,271
„ April	2,226	357,928
„ May	2,576	493,218

This form of relief may be expected to expand yet more in the rains.

6. Side by side with kitchens a list of persons on village relief to whom cash doles are given has to be maintained. Some persons, however distressed, cannot bring themselves to accept cooked food, others have no kitchen near their homes, and there are infirm people unable to walk even a short distance to be

provided for. The village relief lists of cash-dole recipients at the end of November last bore the names of over 200,000 recipients ; by the end of March the numbers had fallen to half that figure. As the rains approached it was necessary to expand that list somewhat, and the numbers of the past three months compare as follows :—

Month.	Numbers on Village Relief.
March	102,808
April	109,704
May	111,666

The latest returns show that of those fed in kitchens 75 per cent. are children, while of those on the village relief lists 85 per cent. are adults. This is as it should be.

7. The difficulty of provisioning kitchens in the remoter tracts during the rains is a serious one, and it has been found necessary in several instances to give advances to dealers who accept contracts to keep them supplied with rice. In some few instances where no dealers are forthcoming the necessary grain has had to be purchased and stored beforehand as the only means to prevent the possibility of a break-down in the rains.

8. As the last week in May is generally regarded as the penultimate and most acute stage of a famine, the present is a convenient time at which to state the numbers and percentage of population on relief in each district.

These are as follows :—

District.	Population in Thousands.	Numbers on Relief at end of May.	Percentage of Population on Relief.
Saugor	592	41,230	6·96
Damoh	325	15,771	4·85
Jubbulpore	748	48,574	6·52
Mandla	339	17,974	5·30
Seoni	371	34,434	9·28
Narsinghpur	367	3,109	·84
Hoshangabad...	499	79,690	15·96
Nimar...	286	65,134	22·77
Betul	323	106,058	32·83
Chhindwara	407	65,383	16·06
Wardha	400	79,589	19·89
Nagpur	758	59,746	7·88
Chanda	697	183,751	26·36
Bhandara	742	104,491	14·08
Balaghat	383	100,188	26·15
Raipur	1,584	654,390	41·31
Bilaspur	1,164	257,423	22·11
Sambalpur	796	39,708	4·98

9. Prices have shown a tendency to rise during the month, and the rates for the principal staples are almost everywhere from half a seer to a seer dearer than in April. It has been found necessary to lower the wage basis in proportion, as it is most important that the people should enter upon the unhealthy period of the rains in as good condition as possible. The rate adopted as the basis of wages averages about 10½ seers over the whole of the Province; it is somewhat higher in the northern districts, and a little lower in some parts off the railway.

10. The general condition of the people is still good. The Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division reports a distinct improvement in the appearance of relief-workers in Raipur, where there had been some deterioration during March. In spite, however, of these satisfactory outward appearances, and in spite of the continuous expansion of relief measures mortality has risen. This is mainly due to cholera; but excessive heat, bad water in the villages in the districts where the drought was most severe, a long course of unaccustomed food in districts where rice is not the common diet, and the general hardship inseparable from a year of famine, cannot but have an effect on the vital statistics. A good many deaths are also reported to have occurred owing to the rash consumption by individuals of large quantities of mangoes and melons.

11. Cholera accounted for 8,194 deaths in April out of a total of 42,555 deaths in the whole Province during that month. It was very severe in Wardha and Chhattisgarh, and carried off a good many victims in Jubbulpore, Nimar, and Bhandara. Small-pox accounted for over 1,000 deaths over the Province generally. The highest death-rates for April were as follows:—

District.	All Causes.	Exclusive of Epidemics.
Wardha	7·80	5·12
Nimar	7·30	6·86
Raipur (Khalsa)	6·48	3·88
Bilaspur (Khalsa)	5·40	3·95
Sambalpur (Zamindaris)	7·67	4·50
Betul	4·87	4·68
Sambalpur	4·39	3·02
Chanda	4·13	3·65

There is no other district in which the death-rate is markedly high, and mortality in the Jubbulpore Division, Narsinghpur and Balaghat is decidedly low. For the whole Province, exclusive of the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris, the death-rate for April is 4·04 inclusive of epidemics and 3·25 exclusive of them. In the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris the death-rate is 4·74, or, excluding epidemic diseases, 2·94. It may thus be said that, apart from cholera and small-pox, mortality is seriously high only in Nimar, Wardha, Betul, and the Sambalpur Zamindaris. In the last-mentioned areas distress is not serious, and the high mortality is the accompaniment of cholera. In Wardha, Nimar, and Betul the scanty water-supply is at the bottom of the trouble. The Nimar mortality baffles explanation, but, as was mentioned last month, it is believed that the population is larger than the returns show.

12. The death-rates for May have not yet been completely received, but the conditions of that month have been very hard both for those on relief works and for the officers and subordinate officials engaged in the administration of relief. Cholera has spread to nearly every district, and has been specially severe in Chanda, and some officers-in-charge and subordinate officials have been among the victims. The charge officers have been largely engaged in the

arduous task of distributing takavi and charitable loans, a work which, in some places, has been much hindered by cholera dispersing the crowds collected. All are now looking anxiously for the rains. A storm from the Bay of Bengal has given heavy rain to the Chhattisgarh districts, but the Arabian Sea current is greatly delayed, and the greater part of the Province has only received local showers. At present the delay is not serious, provided that the rainfall hereafter is ample; but the water-supply difficulty in the western districts is becoming intensified, and cholera is not likely to subside until the monsoon is really established.

13. During the month the Officiating Chief Commissioner made a tour through the plateau districts of Chhindwara and Seoni, which he had not before visited. Relief arrangements were quite adequate, and the condition of the people very good. Mr. Fraser also paid a short visit to the Tapti valley, in Nimar, where work is in progress on the Khandwa-Akola Railway, and jungle is being cleared as a relief work with a view to the more speedy colonization of the once fertile and populous Manjrod tract. A thousand foreigners off the Hoshangabad works had been successfully drafted to Manjrod for this purpose, and it is hoped that some families will settle on the newly cleared land.

14. The Report of the Political Agent of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories, which is attached for the information of the Foreign Department, shows that matters are going on in a satisfactory way in those States. In the south-eastern States, where the distress is less severe, sowings of early rice had actually commenced. The crops in most of them did not fail so completely as in the khalsa, and the earlier rain which they have now received should much relieve the pressure and enable agricultural operations to be resumed. Relief arrangements appear to be well abreast of the distress. But there has been an increase, not a general decrease, as stated by the Political Agent. The numbers are:—

Month.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
April	44,037	20,259	64,296
May	43,276	26,274	69,550

The Political Agent reports that the States intend to rely chiefly on kitchens during the rains. The Commissioner of Chhattisgarh considers this decision to be a prudent one, and the Officiating Chief Commissioner believes that this will prove sufficient.

No. 3.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F. 1876, *dated Nagpur, the 17th July*, 1900.

I am directed to submit the monthly famine statements and map for the five weeks ending on the 30th June last.

2. Up to the end of the period under consideration, and indeed for some days after, the state of the weather was causing the gravest anxiety. Only in Raipur and Sambalpur had the rainfall been really satisfactory. The heat was excessive, sowings were retarded, and the early sown seedlings were in danger of withering. The deficiency of the rainfall was most marked in the west and north of the Province, and in several districts only very light and scattered showers were received. The crop and weather return for the week ending the 3rd July showed a rainfall varying from 60 to 80 per cent. below the normal.

The anxiety of this period has since been removed by the copious and general rain of the last ten days, and sowings are now resumed with vigour all over the Province; but, while it lasted, it exercised a most serious effect on the people, and added to the difficulties of relief administration. The deficiency of the water and fodder supply were enhanced and protracted; cholera continued its ravages; agricultural employment was greatly diminished; and the arrangements for moving the people from the large works to their homes were delayed and impeded. At the same time petty crime largely increased; and prices began to rise. The unsettling effects of all these adverse circumstances are clearly illustrated in the famine-relief returns of the month.

3. The following table shows the numbers on different forms of relief on the 26th May and 30th June respectively :—

Division.		Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total
Jubbulpore	26th May, 1900	73,125	5,047	61,750	18,061	84,858	157,983
	30th June, „	57,123	4,257	149,614	24,971	178,842	235,965
Nerbudda	26th May, „	187,791	26,923	85,874	18,786	131,583	319,374
	30th June, „	126,607	15,361	175,571	19,930	210,862	337,469
Nagpur	26th May, „	333,066	38,093	112,719	43,887	194,699	527,765
	30th June, „	254,908	28,072	240,060	59,719	327,851	582,759
Chhattisgarh	26th May, „	626,720	60,994	232,875	30,932	324,801	951,521
	30th June, „	299,415	34,683	395,981	42,357	473,021	772,436
Total	26th May, „	1,220,702	131,057	493,218	111,666	735,941	1,956,643
	30th June, „	738,053	82,373	961,226	146,977	1,190,576	1,928,629

The various kinds of employment, on which those entered in column 2 of the table given above as workers were engaged, is shown below :—

Division.		Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B. List.
Jubbulpore	26th May, 1900...	36,597	36,528	...	...	...
	30th June, „ ...	34,215	21,550	...	...	1,358
Nerbudda	26th May, „ ...	126,676	42,624	11,834	6,657	...
	30th June, „ ...	75,229	34,163	8,523	7,125	1,567
Nagpur	26th May, „ ...	246,174	57,608	8,889	20,395	...
	30th June „ ...	191,041	36,249	6,676	20,721	221
Chhattisgarh	26th May, „ ...	262,293	363,852	465	110	...
	30th June, „ ...	194,200	104,923	219	73	...
Total	26th May, „ ...	671,740	500,612	21,188	27,162	...
	30th June, „ ...	494,685	196,885	15,418	27,919	3,146

4. The net result of the character of the weather and the change in the system of relief which began to come into force has been a reduction in the total numbers on relief by 28,000 only. There had previously been a fall of 150,000, but these numbers were made up again on the Province as a whole, though the distribution both as to districts and as to forms of relief has very materially altered. It is noteworthy that each of the three Divisions of Jubbulpore, Nerbudda, and Nagpur show a substantial rise in the numbers relieved, while in Chhattisgarh, where alone the rainfall has been satisfactory, there has been a large fall of 180,000, or nearly 20 per cent.

5. While, however, the altered distribution of numbers on relief between the various districts has been important, the shifting of the relieved from works to gratuitous relief has been most remarkable. There has been a decrease of 482,649 persons on works, and an addition of 454,635 to the gratuitous list; but if Chhattisgarh be excluded, the decrease of workers has been only 155,000, while the increase of those on gratuitous relief has been 317,555. It is thus clear that in the three Divisions in question there has been a large though temporary increase in distress. This phase would certainly cause great alarm were it not for the fact that it is sufficiently explained by the unfavourable character of the season, which has since so materially changed for the better.

6. The second table in paragraph 3 is also of much interest. The progress anticipated in transferring the people from large Public Works Department camps to their homes has not been fully realized. The delay in the rains has been the principal cause of this; but the number of these camps has in spite of this delay been reduced from 191 to 165, and the numbers have fallen from 671,740 to 494,685, or by 26 per cent. This has resulted partly from the exodus of cultivators who have left to till their fields, and partly from the despatch to their homes of all weakly gangs and their dependants in accordance with the policy adopted at the Pachmarhi Conference. The district reports show that the movement, now that the rains appear to be established, is likely to continue. The reduction in the numbers on Village Works is still greater—500,000 at the end of May to 197,000 at the end of June, a fall of 60 per cent. The great majority of these works were closed either on completion or because rain rendered their continuance impossible; but in the north and west especially it was found necessary to keep them open for a longer period than had been intended; and in many cases it was also desirable to keep open such tank works as could be completed. A certain number may be expected to remain open for some weeks to come in those few localities, mainly in Chhattisgarh, where work can be carried on without much inconvenience in the rains. The numbers employed on forest works consisting of tanks and roads are now small, and have fallen considerably since the end of May.

Weaver relief, which outside the Nagpur District and the town of Burhanpur is insignificant, shows no marked change.

For the first time an entry appears against the B. list,—*i.e.*, those on cash relief in their villages in return for work,—but the number is at present insignificant. It is anticipated that cash doles will be needed for a large number of labourers during July, after which weeding, followed by early harvesting, should permit of this form of relief being almost entirely dispensed with. Of those shown under this heading the majority are returned from Mandla, where no large relief works can advantageously be opened during the rains; Nimar, Hoshangabad and Balaghat contribute the balance. The persons thus relieved were all residents of poor and remote tracts.

7. In accordance with the policy decided at the Pachmarhi Conference, and enunciated in Famine Circular No. F-49, kitchens will be the mainstay in the rains, and the present returns show how much that form of relief is appreciated.

The spread of kitchen relief can best be shown by the following comparison :—

Month.	Number of Kitchens.	Attendance.
March	1,866	276,271
April	2,226	357,928
May	2,576	493,218
June	3,334	960,398

The rush on kitchens has been so great as to cause temporary disorganization in some places, and fears were entertained that the arrangements for supplying them with the grain would break down. In most districts it has been necessary to give advances to grain contractors, and in two remote tracts of Raipur and part of Betul, supplies have been forwarded by famine labour taken from the works. So far as can be judged from the latest reports the difficulties have been met and overcome; and the manner in which this has been done reflects much credit on local officers. One-third of the numbers now receiving food at kitchens is made up of adults, amongst whom women largely predominate. The districts in which the adult population at kitchens is largest are Raipur (91,000), Chanda (36,000), Nimar (23,000).

The large increase of adults on kitchen in parts of Saugor, Betul, Nimar and Raipur has raised doubts as to the advisability of maintaining the rule of free admissions. The Officiating Chief Commissioner fully discussed this question recently on the spot in the Chhattisgarh districts. He is convinced of the necessity of the measure. When large numbers are returning to their villages from works, the kitchens afford a most economical and successful form of relief. Work is not at once available to all, and a safeguard of this kind is essential. Were admission limited to emaciated adults, then for a few now gratuitously fed who are not in need there would be hundreds excluded who would be in want of food. Later on when the people are once more settling down to their home life and ordinary avocations, and field employment increases, some weeding out of the kitchen-fed will be feasible. But, at present, it is of prime importance that the health and strength of the people should be maintained so that they may resist the unhealthy period to come. Mr. Fraser believes that the rush of able-bodied to kitchens, which after all is not so great as might at first sight appear, is largely due to the lateness of the rains. He does not believe that a daily meal of rice and dal consumed in this public fashion can be so attractive as to induce any large number of people who could easily earn subsistence in other ways to overcome their dislike to taking their place among a long line of paupers. He may be wrong in this view, but until sufficient time has elapsed to prove this, he is unwilling to modify existing orders.

8. The increase of those on the gratuitous village list of cash doles has not been very great, from 111,666 to 146,977. On this list will be borne only the permanent incapables, the old and weakly who cannot walk to a kitchen in the rainy season, and poor village watchmen whose duties prevent them earning daily wages and whose ordinary dues have failed them. The number of these at present on this form of gratuitous relief only amounts to 1·5 per cent. on the total population of the Province.

9. Prices have risen very considerably during the month, the rise being most marked in the districts with no railway communication. The lowest price at which any of the main staples is now quoted is $10\frac{3}{4}$ seers in Bilaspur. In Betul the cheapest rate is 8 seers, in Chhindwara $7\frac{1}{2}$. The chief cause of the general rise has been the anxiety lest the rains should fail, and the recent rain should produce a general fall; but in the more remote tracts cholera and difficulties of transport have been contributing causes. The first of these

should now rapidly disappear, but the second will continue throughout the rains. The rise in prices has been accompanied, as already stated, by an increase of petty crime, and the jail population is increasing, but the condition of new admissions is not bad; and with the enormous spread of relief arrangements it is quite certain that nobody need be driven to steal by sheer hunger.

10. So far as outward and physical evidence goes, the condition of the people continues to be satisfactory, but cholera has continued to play havoc in many districts. The disease has almost everywhere been successfully stamped out on the works themselves, but with the bad water-supply it was impossible to eradicate it from the villages. It is reported that village enquiries have often shown that epidemic disease has been reported as fever in order to avoid the troublesome measures which the report of a cholera outbreak occasions.

The death-rates for April and May (the June returns are not yet fully to hand) contrast as follows :—

	April.	May.	
		All Causes.	Excluding Epidemics.
JUBBULPORE DIVISION :—			
Saugor	2·29	2·89	2·83
Damoh	2·02	2·54	2·52
Jubbulpore	2·46	3·07	2·34
Mandla	1·38	1·25	1·25
Seoni	1·36	1·59	1·58
NERBUDDA DIVISION :—			
Narsinghpur	2·25	2·14	2·13
Hoshangabad	3·49	3·81	3·31
Nimar	7·30	8·20	6·78
Betul	4·87	6·04	5·06
Chhindwara	2·90	5·22	3·59
NAGPUR DIVISION :—			
Wardha	7·80	8·35	5·53
Nagpur	3·58	4·45	3·69
Chanda	4·13	8·85	5·05
Bhandara	3·45	3·97	3·44
Balaghat...	2·26	2·41	2·33
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION :—			
Raipur	6·48	5·56	3·34
Bilaspur...	5·40	6·51	3·57
Sambalpur	4·39	6·05	3·26

The Provincial rate has risen from 4·04 to 4·80 per mille.

11. The total number of deaths which occurred during the month of May was 50,043, of which 14,989 were due to cholera, and 973 to small-pox. Cholera was most virulent in Chhattisgarh, Chanda, Wardha, Nimar, Jubbulpore and Chhindwara. If epidemics be excluded the districts* in which the mortality of May exceeded 4 per mille are Nimar, Betul, Wardha and Chanda, the districts in which the water-supply has been most deficient. The bad quality and deficiency of the water-supply were of course intensified in May, and there was a consequent rise in non-epidemic mortality, except in Nimar, where the rate has been practically stationary. In Raipur and Bilaspur, on the other hand, there was a satisfactory decline in non-epidemic mortality. For the whole Province (exclusive of the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris) non-epidemic mortality shows a rate of 3·42 in May as compared with 3·25 in April, while in the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris the rates are 2·21 and 2·94 respectively. To judge from the returns of a few districts for June, it is feared that the unfavourable climatic conditions of that month have again raised the death-rate in some parts of the Province, but discussion of these must be deferred till the complete returns are available.

* Non-epidemic Mortality.

Districts.	April.	May.
Nimar ...	6·86	6·78
Betul ...	4·68	5·06
Wardha ...	5·12	5·53
Chanda ...	3·65	5·05
Raipur ...	3·88	3·34
Bilaspur ...	3·95	3·57

12. At the close of the month under review, the Officiating Chief Commissioner started on a visit to the three districts of Chhattisgarh, where he discussed the situation on the spot with the local officers. The decisions there arrived at are embodied in a letter to the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division (No. 1805-F., dated the 11th July), of which I am to forward a copy for the information of the Government of India. The effect of the improved prospects, both on the famine situation and on the system of relief adopted for the rainy period, will be carefully watched. Mr. Fraser is just about to start on a tour of the districts of the Nagpur Division.

13. I am, as usual, to forward for the information of the Foreign Department a copy of the report of the Political Agent of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories for the month of June, on the famine administration of that State. The two points which seem to call for most notice, the overcrowding of the Raigarh poor-house, and the necessity for increasing kitchens in Khairagarh, are both receiving Mr. Sly's attention. In all other respects, the administration of relief appears to be satisfactory. In the course of his tour, Mr. Fraser had opportunities for discussing with the Superintendent of the Nandgaon State and the Diwan of Khairagarh, as well as with Mr. Sly, the measures adopted in these States.

No. 4.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F-2048, dated Nagpur, the 17th August, 1900.

I AM directed to submit the usual statements and map showing the progress of famine-relief administration during the four weeks ending the 28th July.

2. The rainfall of the month of July was most satisfactory, although the holding off of rain in Sambalpur during the latter part of the month caused some temporary anxiety which has since been dispelled. In the report for June a description was given of the disquieting effects which the delay in the monsoon had had upon the minds of the people, and how it had driven many to seek relief who might otherwise have managed to do without it. The results of this delay have continued to be felt throughout July. Persons returning home from their villages from the large Public Works Department camps, those whom the contraction of Village Works left without employment, and many who had hitherto abstained from seeking Government relief, were all driven to resort to the kitchens. Weeding operations, which even in ordinary years are

not extensive until well on in July, were further postponed by a fortnight owing to the lateness of the sowings. Many who had been, in the first instance, very reluctant to submit to the tests of public meals in a kitchen, once having taken the step, became equally reluctant to leave the certainty of a full meal daily for the chance of intermittent employment.

3. Such has been the condition of things in July. Since the close of the month there has been further heavy rain; confidence has been restored; and weeding operations should offer extensive employment. At the same time, the employment will even now be considerably less than usual, especially in the rice districts; and in the most distressed tracts the situation will not be very materially relieved until the earliest crops are ready to be reaped.

4. The changes during the month in the total numbers on relief, and in receipt of the various kinds of relief offered, are shown in the two statements which follow :—

Division.		Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.
Jubbulpore	30th June, 1900	57,123	4,257	149,614	24,971	178,842	235,965
	28th July „	35,265	1,665	184,834	36,153	222,652	257,917
Nerbudda ...	30th June „	126,607	15,361	175,571	19,930	210,862	337,469
	28th July „	86,934	8,551	295,390	19,855	323,796	410,730
Nagpur ...	30th June „	254,908	28,072	240,060	59,719	327,851	582,759
	28th July „	189,128	17,824	387,879	77,958	483,661	672,789
Chhattisgarh	30th June „	299,415	34,683	395,981	42,357	473,021	772,436
	28th July „	149,246	22,460	730,838	46,883	800,181	949,427
Total ...	30th June „	738,053	82,373	961,226	146,977	1,190,576	1,928,629
	28th July „	460,573	50,500	1,598,941	180,849	1,830,290	2,290,863

The various kind of employment on which those entered in column 2 of the table given above as workers were engaged are shown below :—

Division.		Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B. List.
Jubbulpore ...	30th June, 1900	34,215	21,350	...	...	1,358
	28th July „	20,056	3,648	...	...	11,561
Nerbudda ...	30th June „	75,229	34,163	8,523	7,125	1,567
	28th July „	51,558	19,609	246	7,244	8,277
Nagpur ...	30th June „	191,041	36,249	6,676	20,721	221
	28th July „	121,492	11,432	5,419	20,974	29,811
Chhattisgarh ...	30th June „	194,200	104,923	219	73	...
	28th July „	110,052	39,127	...	67	...
Total ...	30th June „	494,685	196,885	15,418	27,919	3,146
	28th July „	303,158	73,816	5,665	28,285	48,649

The two facts which stand out most in the above figures are—first that the total numbers on relief have risen by over 360,000 during the month of July, and secondly, that the numbers returned as on gratuitous relief have increased by no less than 640,000 souls.

5. The number of Public Works Department camps open has been reduced from 165 to 128, or by 22 per cent., while workers at these camps have decreased from 494,685 to 303,158, or by 38 per cent. The dependants on these works have fallen from 82,373 to 50,500, or by a similar percentage. The closing of these large camps which are unsuitable for this season of the year is proceeding apace, and the end of this month should show a very large further reduction.

The number on Village Works is returned at 74,000 as compared with 197,000 at the end of June. These works will now die a natural death. On the other hand, the numbers on the B list of village relief from whom work is exacted in return for their doles, have risen from 3,146 to 49,649. The latter figure includes persons employed on works of petty village improvement in Mandla who were erroneously shown by the Deputy Commissioner as village workers instead of on the B list ; and over 18,000 persons engaged at depôts in the Betul district might suitably be added to the number on B list relief. These depôts are confined to the wilder tracts of Betul where the population is entirely aboriginal. They receive dry-grain rations in return for miscellaneous work, improvement of forest roads, carriage of grain, and weeding of fields. Practically, therefore, the B list has really risen to about 68,000. No resort to this system has yet been made in Chhattisgarh. It will he necessary now to add to the list a number of the smallest tenants for whom subsistence is required till their crops ripen ; but the list is everywhere being carefully restricted.

The remaining forms of work relief call for no special mention this month.

6. To turn next to "Gratuitous relief," the list of those on cash doles has increased, as might be expected at this season of the year ; but the increase has not been very large, the proportion of the total population on this form of relief being still less than 2 per cent. of the total population of the Province. In the Nerbudda Division alone the numbers are practically stationary, while the increase has been considerable in the Nagpur Division. Absolute uniformity of procedure in a system which has to be carried out by a host of Charge and Circle Officers is unattainable. Moreover, much depends both on the number of kitchens and the attitude of the better castes in regard to them. The Officiating Chief Commissioner is satisfied that the principles of which this relief should be given are sufficiently understood.

7. Poor-houses have been opened at Sambalpur and Bilaspur, making eight for the whole Province. The inmates are constantly drafted to their homes. The total population of these institutions at the close of the month was only about 1,200.

8. Kitchen relief continues to play an increasingly important part in the relief system of the Province. At the end of May the kitchen-relieved formed 25 per cent. of the total on relief ; at the end of June the proportion had risen to 49 per cent. ; at the end of July it stood at 70 per cent. The table given in paragraph 7 of last month's report brought up to date stands as follows :—

Month.	No. of Kitchens.	Nos. on Kitchen Relief.
March	1,866	276,271
April...	2,226	357,928
May	2,576	493,218
June...	3,334	960,398
July	5,011	1,597,603

So extraordinary has been the development of kitchen relief during the last two months that it is desirable to furnish district details regarding the attendance at these institutions. These are shown in the following statement :—

District.	No. of Kitchens.	Attendance in Kitchens.		
		Adults.	Children.	Total.
Saugor	166	24,426	32,712	57,138
Damoh	129	17,367	20,692	38,059
Jubbulpore	128	5,514	30,241	35,755
Mandla	127	6,109	23,772	29,881
Seoni	110	4,615	19,034	23,649
Narsinghpur	64	1,985	4,095	6,080
Hoshangabad	216	47,835	44,039	91,874
Nimar...	98	36,820	34,670	71,490
Betul	187	35,869	50,943	86,812
Chhindwara	183	13,638	25,128	38,766
Wardha	143	28,017	28,514	56,531
Nagpur	174	24,240	23,578	47,818
Chanda	216	68,814	72,286	141,100
Bhandara	251	20,391	46,417	66,808
Balaghat	248	26,834	48,788	75,622
Raipur	1,893	265,807	273,115	538,922
Bilaspur	515	28,530	101,413	129,943
Sambalpur	163	23,161	38,294	61,455
Total	5,011	679,972	917,731	1,597,703

The most prominent features in this statement are the enormous numbers returned from Raipur (which with a population of 15 per cent. of the Provinces returns a third of the total numbers on kitchen relief), and the large proportion of adults attending the kitchens in the districts of Hoshangabad, Nimar, Wardha, Nagpur, Chanda, and Raipur.

9. The ever-increasing numbers on gratuitous relief (now practically synonymous with kitchen relief) has from the first engaged the anxious attention of the Officiating Chief Commissioner. At the time of his tour at the end of June and beginning of July in Chhattisgarh, agricultural employment was so scanty that it would have been quite unsafe to close kitchens to free admission. During Mr. Fraser's tour from the 18th to the 30th July in the districts of the Nagpur Division, as more employment became available, it became evident that exclusion from the kitchens of able-bodied persons for whom field labour and wages were available had become necessary. Orders, framed after full discussion with local officers, to bring this about were issued in my letter No. F-1965, dated the 3rd August, to the address of the Commissioner, Nagpur Division, of which I am to forward a copy for the information of the Government of India. The conclusions which the Officiating

Chief Commissioner formed during that tour are summarized in paragraphs 11 and 12 of that letter.

10. A week later, at a Conference held at Hoshangabad, it was decided that the time had come for a further step in the direction of excluding the able-bodied from kitchens, and that a proportion varying with the circumstances of each agricultural tract might be safely struck off the kitchen registers without the necessity of a definite guarantee of employment for them. Orders giving effect to this decision are contained in Famine Circular No. 53 of the 14th August. Able-bodied persons at the kitchens had already been excluded in parts of the Jubbulpore Division, where the famine had been less serious. The difficulty lay with the other Divisions. The investigation of the state of affairs in the Nerbudda Division, supplemented by further inquiry and reports in regard to the progress of events in Chhattisgarh and Nagpur, showed that the situation had materially developed. There was a strong consensus of opinion that, with the increased scope for employment, expulsion of the able-bodied might be undertaken throughout the Province, the process being gradual or rapid according to the circumstances of particular tracts.

11. In some districts even before the issue of orders there was a voluntary diminution in numbers as weeding offered employment; but there began to manifest itself a tendency for labourers to take their food at a kitchen, and do a half-day's work in the field for a half wage. This, which was an exceptional experience in most districts, rapidly became the practice in Raipur. The local officers in this district took up the position that so long as the kitchen-fed were really engaged on agricultural work there was no objection, in view of the intensity of the distress, to their receiving a daily meal. This view, though not open to serious objection at a time when employment was very scanty, is no longer tenable when the season has further advanced; and it has been clearly pointed out to the Commissioner that kitchen relief in his Division must be brought into line with that of the rest of the Province. The present system in Raipur if unchecked would soon degenerate into a large subsidy to all private employers and lower the rate of wages to a point at which no labourer who refused kitchen relief could subsist. The rush of people to kitchens in this district has been so extraordinarily rapid,* and the dissemination of orders over its large area takes so long, that immediate results from them cannot be expected; but the Commissioner had already enjoined the elimination of persons able to support themselves and their dependants, and the orders now issued to him, No. F-2035, of the 14th August (copy attached), should soon bear fruit.

Month.	Nos. at kitchens.
June 30th ...	265,624
July 7th ...	354,192
July 14th ...	400,129
July 21st ...	480,952
July 28th ...	538,922

12. The continued increase of the numbers on relief has excited adverse comments in the public press, to which the Government of India may expect the Officiating Chief Commissioner briefly to allude. I am to say that if the occasion should again arise the Officiating Chief Commissioner would not vary the orders passed in May respecting the free admission to kitchens. It was this measure alone which tided the people over the crisis of June. It succeeded in bringing them back from the works to their homes, and in rendering agricultural operations possible without that forcible expulsion from works which is so dangerous at that season of the year. The interval between the close of the hot weather, and the period when general field labour is available, is always a trying time for labourers. In normal years they eke out deficiencies with their store of edible forest produce collected in April, or by means of advances made them in anticipation of earnings by weeding. This year there were no such advances to be had, and no such store collected, while the period of waiting was protracted to twice its normal duration. Now that confidence has been restored, and agricultural employment is once more available, the time has come for restrictions. The enormous growth of the kitchen population was not anticipated; because the delay in the rains which was mainly responsible for it could not be foreseen.

13. Prices have fluctuated slightly; they have become easier in some districts, and where they have risen the rise has been slight. At the same time there has been a large decline in imports of foreign rice, and some of the stocks of this rice accumulated in some districts has begun to be re-exported to others. Prices cannot, however, be expected to fall materially until the critical month of September has successfully passed. Great difficulties have been experienced in the interior of Chanda and Betul in providing supplies owing to the heavy cost of transport, and the state of communications, and at some of the remoter works in Betul the price of grain rose to 6 or 6½ seers. Taking head-quarter markets, prices range between 9 and 10 seers in districts on the railway, and 7 to 8 seers in those not opened up by railway communication.

14. The condition of the people, so far as suffering from want is concerned is everywhere reported as satisfactory. In the districts bordering Indore, Bhopal and Central India some of the immigrants, who are attracted in large numbers by the kitchens, show signs of privation; but except for these, emaciation is rarely seen.

15. The mortality returns which accompany this report as usual relate to the preceding month, in this case, June. This was the most trying time of any yet experienced. Cholera raged; and in the western districts the evils of a short and polluted water supply were much intensified. The total number of deaths during the month were 70,728, of which 22,788 were due to cholera, and 1,006 to small-pox. The corresponding figures for May were 50,043, 14,989 and 973, respectively. The following are the death-rates per mille, district by district, as compared with those of May :—

District.	Death Rates in May.		Death rates in June.	
	All causes.	Exclusive of epidemics.	All causes.	Exclusive of epidemics.
Saugor	2·89	2·83	4·67	4·27
Damoh	2·54	2·52	2·88	2·86
Jubbulpore	3·07	2·34	3·82	2·87
Mandla	1·25	1·25	1·70	1·70
Seoni	1·59	1·58	3·54	2·79
Narsinghpur	2·14	2·13	1·97	1·95
Hoshangabad	3·81	3·31	6·41	4·27
Nimar	8·20	6·78	14·02	9·83
Betul	6·04	5·06	11·97	7·38
Chhindwara	5·22	3·59	13·38	6·34
Wardha	8·35	5·53	7·33	5·10
Nagpur	4·45	3·69	5·38	3·97
Chanda	8·85	5·05	16·63	7·78
Bhandara	3·97	3·44	6·74	5·52
Balaghat	2·41	2·33	4·04	3·56
Raipur	5·56	3·34	5·10	4·19
Bilaspur	6·51	3·57	6·69	4·15
Sambalpur	6·05	3·26	10·26	5·37

Over the Khalsa area of the Province the death-rate has risen from 4·80 per mille in May to 6·81 in June; but excluding epidemic disease the rates are 3·42 and 4·58 respectively. In the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris the rates for June are 6·91 including, and 4·01 excluding epidemic disease, as compared with rates of 5·19 and 2·21 in May.

16 The highest rates of those shown in the preceding paragraphs occur in Nimar, Chanda, Betul, Chhindwara, Sambalpur and Wardha. It is noticeable that wherever mortality from cholera has risen, the mortality from other causes has risen to an even greater degree. In Wardha, where cholera has diminished the non-epidemic mortality has similarly fallen. There is no reason to apprehend that deaths have occurred from starvation or even from direct privation, but the strain and exposure inevitable in life on relief works in the hot weather, without doubt, weakened the power of the people to resist the diseases connected with the bad state of the water supply and the abnormal weather conditions.

The persistently high mortality reported from Nimar for several months past led the Chief Commissioner to ask the Administrative Medical Officer to make special enquiries into this subject, and I am to attach to this letter a copy of an excellent report (No. 4445—84, dated the 9th August) by that officer on the subject. Mr. Fraser thinks that Colonel Scott-Reid has succeded in establishing both that the true population of that district must have considerably increased, and that, owing to an influx of foreigners who contribute very largely to the death-rate, the deaths among the indigenous population are not nearly as numerous as the returns show. It is therefore probable that the true death-rate upon the present permanent population is not higher than the rates in corresponding districts.

Cholera has continued throughout July and it now shows signs of abating; but the months of August and September, in ordinary times the most unhealthy of the year, have still to be passed through; and it is too much to hope that the death-rates will fall to their normal level.

17. In conclusion, I am to forward as usual for the information of the Foreign Department, a copy of the report of the Political Agent of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories on the Famine administration of those States.

The Officiating Chief Commissioner concurs with the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division in thinking that, except for certain shortcomings in the Patna State, which are now being rectified, the record of the month is satisfactory.

No. 5.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F-2183, dated, Nagpur, the 15th September, 1900.

I am directed to submit the monthly report of famine relief administration for the four weeks ending the 25th August. The usual map and statements accompany the report.

2. The rainfall of August was everywhere sufficient; indeed, heavy falls, resulting in flooded rivers, have done a certain amount of local damage. The agricultural operations usual at this season of the year have generally been carried on briskly; but heavy rain has retarded them in places. In the northern districts, in particular, a spell of fine weather is needed. The current month is a very critical period for agriculture. Up to the present the weather has been favourable. The final realisation of the high hopes now entertained of a good kharif harvest depends upon timely showers towards the close of the month; but so far as these crops are concerned the risk of very serious failure

is now small. But for the distressful history of the past few years little anxiety would be felt. Maize and the early millets are now ripening, and the earliest rice is ready to be cut in Sambalpur; but these crops are later than usual, and their effect could not be felt in the month to which this report relates. By the time that the next report comes to be written the situation will have cleared, and the character of the kharif harvest should be known with certainty.

3. The changes during the month in the total numbers on relief and in receipt of the various kind of relief available are shown in the two statements below :—

Division.		Relief Works.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.
Jubbulpore	28th July, 1900	32,265	1,665	184,834	36,153	222,652	257,917
	25th Aug. „	32,640	870	146,811	35,018	182,699	215,339
Nerbudda ...	28th July „	86,934	8,551	295,390	19,855	323,796	410,730
	25th Aug. „	83,486	5,430	216,978	20,903	243,311	326,797
Nagpur ...	28th July „	189,128	17,824	387,879	77,958	483,661	672,789
	25th Aug. „	131,051	7,759	423,658	80,201	511,618	642,669
Chhattisgarh	28th July „	149,246	22,460	730,838	46,883	800,181	949,427
	25th Aug. „	45,191	8,519	775,953	39,618	824,090	869,281
Total ...	28th July „	460,573	50,500	1,598,941	180,849	1,830,290	2,290,863
	25th Aug. „	292,368	22,578	1,563,400	175,740	1,761,718	2,054,086

The various kinds of employment on which the workers shown in column 2 of the above table were engaged are shown below .—

Division.		Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B List.
Jubbulpore ...	28th July, 1900	20,056	3,648	—	—	11,561
	25th Aug. „	12,173	408	—	—	20,059
Nerbudda ...	28th July „	51,558	19,609	246	7,244	8,277
	25th Aug. „	30,457	17,498	46	7,190	28,295
Nagpur ...	28th July „	121,492	11,432	5,419	20,974	29,811
	25th Aug. „	36,273	2,292	6,068	21,164	65,254
Chhattisgarh ...	28th July „	110,052	39,127	—	67	—
	25th Aug. „	30,097	15,000	—	94	—
Total ...	28th July „	303,158	73,816	5,665	28,285	48,649
	25th Aug ,	109,000	35,198	6,114	28,448	113,608

4. There has been, it will be observed, a decline in the numbers on all forms of relief of neary 237,000, or over 10 per cent. But the nature of the

decrease can best be appreciated with reference to the intermediate rise in the middle of the month. The figures week by week were as follows :—

Week ending	Numbers.
July 28th	2,290,863
August 4th	2,269,585
„ 11th	2,308,949
„ 18th	2,241,557
„ 25th	2,054,086

The decline now reported has been larger in the case of work-relief than under the gratuitous heads, but these also show a decrease of 68,500, the precursor of the further reduction reported in the telegraphic returns of the last two weeks.

5. Under the major head of work-relief, the principal fall has occurred on Public Works Department works. The number of charges has dropped from 128 to 76, 52 camps having been closed during the month. The average number of workers at each camp has fallen from 2,368 to 1,434; and the number of dependants has declined in an even greater proportion. Few, if any, Public Works Department works are likely to continue open after the close of the current month. In very few localities has the exclusion of the able-bodied from kitchens resulted in any return of labourers to relief-works.

6. Numbers on village works have declined by over a half; and if the persons relieved at the Betul depôts are removed to the head of B list relief, to which they properly belong, the numbers on those works outside Chhattisgarh become quite insignificant. Of those returned from the Chhattisgarh Division the majority belong to a portion of the Bilaspur District where distress is greatest and the character of the soil renders Village Works practicable in the rains. Forest roads in Chanda account for almost the whole of the numbers shown on forest works. Weaver relief continues unchanged.

7. Relief under the B list system has everywhere expanded, save in Chhattisgarh, where the great extension of kitchens and the free resort of the people to them rendered this form of relief unnecessary. If the 17,000 people of the Betul depôts are added to the B list numbers, the total is 130,000 against 68,000 similarly computed at the end of July. This system has been found specially useful to meet the case of the poorest cultivators, as was anticipated in paragraph 5 of my report for July; and it has also enabled a good deal of weeding to be done in the fields of those who could not afford to pay for weeding. As the early crops ripen, this form of relief will be discontinued.

8. Under the heads of gratuitous relief, poor-houses call for little notice. Needy vagrants have a tendency to crowd into head-quarters during the rains; but constant drafting has kept the numbers down, and the population of the eight poor-houses was only 1,620 at the close of the month, as compared with 1,200 at the end of July.

9. As in July, kitchen relief has been the main feature of relief measures. Comparison of the figures of the two months gives the following result :—

	Number of Kitchens.	Number Fed.		
		Adults.	Children.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
On 28th July	5,011	679,972	917,731	1,597,703
On 25th August	6,301	641,654	920,126	1,561,780
Increase or Decrease	+ 1,290	− 38,318	+ 2,395	− 35,923

The increase in the number of kitchens represents the effort of the numerous Charge Officers to cope with the disorganization which the overcrowding of kitchens in the early part of the month entailed. Subsidiary kitchens were multiplied in order to relieve the pressure on the main kitchens. As was reported last month, the expediency of reducing kitchen relief as agricultural operations began to offer increased employment occupied the constant and anxious attention of the Officiating Chief Commissioner. But, owing to the necessity, in view of the backwardness of the crops and a high death-rate, of proceeding with great caution, and after careful consultation with local officers, the orders directing the gradual exclusion of the able-bodied could not issue before the middle of the month. The dissemination and explanation of these orders among all the various villages and circles was a work of time; and the results of this action are only now becoming apparent.

The policy of exclusion was accompanied in the case of districts less distressed by the voluntary departure both of adults and children as field employment increased; but up to the 25th August only a beginning had been made. During the last two weeks the numbers at kitchens have diminished by no less than 350,000. The branch kitchens of Chhattisgarh, which have now served their purpose, are being closed, and in every district a reduction in the number of kitchens is being gradually effected. To turn to particular districts, adult attendance at kitchens has fallen most satisfactorily in the following:—

District.	Adult Attendance.	
	On 28th July.	On 25th August.
	No.	No.
Saugor	24,426	12,305
Hoshangabad	47,835	17,272
Nimar	36,820	22,698
Wardha	28,017	15,374
Betul	35,869	25,245

On the other hand there was an increase of adult attendance in Nagpur, Chanda, Balaghat, Raipur and Sambalpur. In the first and two last districts there has been a large subsequent decrease. In Balaghat, cultivators have been more impoverished than elsewhere; while in Chanda it is feared that the area sown is shorter proportionately than elsewhere. The area transplanted is very short, and constant rain impeded field work, while the large extent of the district and the difficulties of communications have retarded the promulgation of the orders, contained in Famine Circular No. 53. A statement giving full details of kitchen-relief by districts is appended.

10. Village relief properly so called, or distribution of cash doles to people in their homes, shows a small decline from 180,849 to 175,740. There is nothing new to remark about this list. It will shortly, as early crops ripen, be considerably cut down; but on the other hand, the curtailment of kitchen relief will necessitate the temporary enrolment on the cash list of those debarred by infirmity from walking to a more distant kitchen.

11. Although there has been no general fall of prices common to every part of the Province, there is a distinct tendency in that direction. In part of Jubbulpore Division and in Sambalpur the fall had been marked. As these are the localities where the stocks are largest, prospects have acted on prices sooner

than elsewhere. The following is a comparative statement of prices in the districts mentioned :—

District.	Seers per Rupee.					
	Rice.		Gram.		Wheat.	
	July 28th.	August 25th.	July 28th.	August 25th.	July 28th.	August 25th.
Saugor	9½	10	10½	10¾	9½	9¾
Damoh	8⅞	10½	10⅞	12 13/16	9½	9 13/16
Jubbulpore	10½	11	10½	12½	10	11
Sambalpur	9½	11½	9½	10½	9	10½

Rice and wheat have also fallen 2 seers (from 7 to 9 seers per rupee) in Betul, where temporary difficulties of transport had previously enhanced prices very greatly.

Imports continue, but on a much reduced scale ; and the latest accounts show that old stocks are being produced in places where their existence had been stoutly denied. Such stocks must necessarily have been small ; and their production now indicates a general confidence in the coming harvest.

12. The condition of the people, so far as all appearances testify, continues to be good. In the north and west of the Saugor District, where a number of foreigners have been attracted by the kitchens, there are persons to be seen in bad physical condition ; and similarly in Nimar and Hoshangabad there are wanderers from neighbouring States who have plainly suffered from want. But these are no new features. Among the local population emaciation is rarely seen. But the general health has been far from good. Fevers and bowel-complaints have been rife among all classes of society ; and cholera has not died out. The mortality of June was high ; and there has been no fall in July. There is ground for hoping that August may show some improvement ; but there was none in July. The unfavourable conditions of June continued into the first week or ten days of July ; and it was some time before the water-supply improved.

13. The total number of deaths in these three trying months of May, June and July compare as follows :—

Month.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	All causes.
May	14,989	973	50,043
June	22,788	1,006	70,728
July	13,753	703	71,055

The Provincial rate per mille per mensem, excluding the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris, was 6·82, and in the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris 7·26. If epidemics be excluded these rates fall to 5·35 and 6·26. The corresponding rates in June were 4·58 and 4·01 respectively. Non-epidemic mortality thus increased very largely. The sudden change in climatic conditions was responsible for this. With kitchens extended as they have been, it is impossible that want of food has caused mortality. There cannot be deaths from starvation without some signs of starvation among the living.

14. The district details of total non-epidemic mortality compare as follows for June and July :—

District.	Death-rates in June.		Death-rates in July.	
	All causes.	Exclusive of epidemics.	All causes.	Exclusive of epidemics
Saugor	4·67	4·27	7·46	5·02
Damoh	2·88	2·86	2·42	2·25
Jubbulpore	3·82	2·87	4·00	3·17
Mandla	1·70	1·70	1·90	1·80
Seoni	3·54	2·79	5·61	3·72
Narsinghpur	1·97	1·95	2·01	1·97
Hoshangabad	6·41	4·27	6·67	5·23
Nimar	14·02	9·83	14·34	10·18
Betul	11·37	7·38	13·65	9·90
Chhindwara	13·38	6·34	15·78	9·86
Wardha	7·33	5·10	10·68	7·47
Nagpur	5·38	3·97	6·37	4·72
Chanda	16·63	7·78	8·68	7·47
Bhandara	6·74	5·52	8·25	7·49
Balaghat	4·04	3·56	7·07	5·97
Raipur	5·10	4·19	4·42	4·19
Bilaspur	6·69	4·15	3·86	3·17
Sambalpur	10·26	5·37	9·09	7·25

The most unhealthy zone is the country comprised in Nimar, Betul, Chhindwara and Mandla. Not only were these the districts in which the drought of 1899 was most intense, but it was also in these that the current monsoon was latest established. Satisfactory features of the returns are the great decrease of total mortality in Chanda and Bilaspur and the continued low death-rate in the northern districts. In the four districts where death-rates are highest the poorer classes, whether on relief or not, have now been subsisting for many months on a rice diet to which they are wholly unaccustomed. In Chhindwara, which for the first time heads the list, cholera was largely responsible for the heavy death-roll.

15. The task which now lies before the Administration is the closure of relief institutions. The people must return to their normal life and their normal responsibilities. Complete cessation of relief is not possible until harvesting actually begins and prices fall ; but during the remainder of this month and the first half of October, there will be great scope for the substantial curtailment of relief, especially in those tracts in which distress has from the first been less severe or where the harvest is earliest. To this end Commissioners have been addressed, and orders dealing in detail with the procedure to be followed are under preparation and will issue very shortly.

16. I am also to forward for the information of the Foreign Department, the monthly report on the famine arrangements in the Feudatories by the Acting Political Agent. Prospects in these States are everywhere excellent. The

early millets, which are more extensive and are harvested earlier than in the neighbouring Khalsa, are causing prices to fall, and distress should now pass away very soon.

No. 6.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 2325, *dated Nagpur, the* 18*th October*, 1900.

I am directed to submit the usual monthly statements and map to describe the famine relief operations during the five weeks ending on the 29th September last.

2. The rainfall of the month was excellent over the whole Province. In the northern districts in fact it was somewhat too heavy and continuous ; but the slight injury which may have been done to til and juar on low-lying land has been more than compensated for by the great benefit done to the rice crop, and by the assurance that the soil will be in the best possible condition for the rabi sowings. It may be said generally that all the crops of the kharif season are in excellent condition and prospects are more favourable than they have been for many years. Statistics of the area sown are being collected, but the result will not be known for some little time. In some of the rice districts the area sown with rice is believed to be in somewhat serious defect, but in all other parts of the Province the kharif crops will, it is expected, prove to have covered at least a normal area.

3. For many months the burden of these reports has been the progress of relief measures to meet the growing distress. At the close of August the tide had began to turn, and the report for September has to deal with the gradual curtailment of relief.

The difference in the numbers on the several forms of relief, at the close of August and September respectively are shown in the following statements :—

Division.		Relief Works.	Dependant on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total Gratuitous.	Grand Total.
Jubbulpore	25th Aug., 1900	32,640	870	146,811	35,018	182,699	215,339
	29th Sept. „	14,594	425	64,415	17,200	82,040	96,634
Nerbudda ...	25th Aug. „	83,486	5,430	216,978	20,903	243,311	326,797
	29th Sept. „	25,740	677	68,936	19,968	89,581	115,321
Nagpur ...	25th Aug. „	131,051	7,759	423,658	80,201	511,618	642,669
	29th Sept. „	141,297	5,346	227,891	67,566	300,803	442,100
Chhattisgarh	25th Aug. „	45,191	8,519	775,953	39,618	824,090	869,281
	29th Sept. „	8,187	1,698	440,764	30,907	473,369	481,556
Total ...	25th Aug. „	292,368	22,578	1,563,400	175,740	1,761,718	2,054,086
	29th Sept. „	189,818	8,146	802,006	135,641	945,793	1,135,611

There has thus been a decrease during the period of 918,475, or 45 per cent., in the numbers relieved. The decrease has been proportionately greater in the districts where maize and early millets, which were harvested during the month, are of most importance. Thus in the plateau districts of Mandla, Seoni, Chhindwara and Betul between the 1st and 29th September the numbers have fallen from 231,000 to 80,000 or 65 per cent.; while in the Nagpur Division,

where these early crops are of very little account, the reduction in numbers (from 618,000 to 442,000) is much smaller.

4. Details of the numbers shown as on work relief, which have fallen from 292,000 to 190,000 are given below :—

Division.		Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B. List.
Jubbulpore	25th August, 1900	12,173	408	—	—	20,059
	29th September „	7,940	369	—	—	6,285
Nerbudda ...	25th August „	30,457	17,408	46	7,190	28,295
	29th September „	3,933	7,182	—	5,908	8,717
Nagpur ...	25th August „	36,273	2,292	6,068	21,164	65,254
	29th September „	36,460	2,279	5,332	17,902	79,324
Chhattisgarh	25th August „	30,097	15,000	—	94	—
	29th September „	6,646	1,541	—	—	—
Total ...	25th August „	109,000	35,198	6,114	28,448	113,608
	29th September „	54,979	11,371	5,332	23,810	94,326

The numbers on Public Works Department works have become insignificant everywhere except in the Nagpur Division. Here, as the work of transplantation was completed, some of those previously turned out of kitchens began to resort to the Public Works Department camps, and though their number was not large, it was found inadvisable to close camps too rapidly in this Division. Thirty-five Public Works Department camps were, however, closed during the month, and of the 41 still open on the 29th, 19 more had been closed during the first week of the current month.

Orders were issued that village works should be closed by the end of September, and the numbers shown on them represent the figure of the last week before closure.

Weaver relief is now being contracted, and will shortly come to a close, as the advances made are worked off.

The B list relief has shrunk to very small dimensions in the Northern divisions. In the Nagpur Division it was necessary to continue it in the case of petty cultivators who are without resource until their crops ripen. It is now being rapidly curtailed.

5. Under the various gratuitous heads, poor-houses remain as before, and the chief feature has been the reduction of kitchens. Thus :—

	Number of kitchens.	Number Fed.		
		Adults.	Children.	Total.
On 28th July	5,011	679,972	917,731	1,597,703
„ 25th August	6,301	641,654	920,126	1,561,780
„ 29th September...	3,663	257,914	542,447	800,361

Reduction of kitchen relief continues day by day. In some of the northern districts, in which distress has been always less acute, kitchens are now being closed altogether ; but where there are no early crops to reap, kitchen relief cannot be closed altogether for some time yet.

On the list of those receiving gratuitous cash relief in their villages there is a reduction of 40,000, in spite of the fact that the closure of a kitchen entails temporary additions to the list of those incapables who cannot be supported by their relations.

6. On the whole, the progress in curtailing relief made during September has in the Officiating Chief Commissioner's opinion been satisfactory. September is a critical period ; it was not until the end of it that prospects became really assured. Prospects, however good, can only alleviate distress when it has been severe ; they cannot terminate it. The food supply must be replenished, and prices must fall before relief can cease. But since the close of the month the curtailment has been proceeding with greater rapidity. Work relief will come to an end in a few days with the Devali holidays, and the relief in November will be confined to the tracts in which the crops are latest. The last rain of September has had the result of delaying the ripening of the rice crops in the south of the province.

7. Imports of rice from Bengal have almost ceased, but a great deal of rice previously imported is being sent about the country. Dealers are trying to get rid of surplus stocks of imported rice before the new crop brings down prices. These movements have resulted in a great deal of local fluctuation in prices, but the net result of the good prospects has been the cheapening of rice in Chhattisgarh by two to three seers to the rupee. In the Nagpur country there has been a very slight fall only ; but in the two Northern Divisions the effect of the small millet harvest has begun to be felt. In Chhindwara, where prices were very high at the end of August, rice and wheat have fallen from $7\frac{1}{4}$ and $6\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{4}$ and $8\frac{3}{4}$ seers per rupee respectively.

8. The mortality returns of August have already been submitted to the Government of India. The hope was expressed in paragraph 12 of last month's report that there might be some improvement in August, but this hope has not been realized. The number of deaths has again risen over the province as a whole in spite of the fact that there has been a great abatement of cholera mortality. The following table shows the figures of the last three months :—

Month.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	All Causes.
June	22,788	1,006	70,728
July	13,753	703	71,055
August	8,639	541	78,753

The provincial death-rate per mille per mensem has thus risen from 6·82 to 7·50, and in the Chhattisgarh Zamindaris from 7·26 to 8·49.

9. While the total number of deaths has been grievously high, there has been a satisfactory decrease in the death-rate in Saugor, Jubbulpore, Betul, Chhindwara, Seoni, and Balaghat. In the following districts death-rates continue satisfactorily low :—

District.	Death-rate.
Damoh	3·58
Jubbulpore	3·91
Narsinghpur	3·50
Mandla	2·15
Bilaspur	4·26

The districts in which the rates are highest are :—

District.	Death-rate.
Sambalpur	17·76
Nimar	16·34
Chhindwara	13·09
Wardha...	12·77
Betul	11·11
Chanda	9·35
Nagpur...	8·31

The reports by the local officers on the results of a special inquiry into mortality in Sambalpur have only just reached the Officiating Chief Commissioner, and he has not yet had time to examine the conclusions formed. In Nimar, as reported in previous months, there are good reasons for believing that the rate is deceptive and is not so high as the figures show, though, of course, much above normal.

10. With all this heavy mortality it cannot be said that the condition of the people is bad, though the public health has been far from good. The amount of fever and bowel complaints to which all classes of the community have been subject has been very abnormal. It would be absurd to deny that a great portion of this mortality is due to the stress and strain which famine entails. But it is equally certain that, with the enormous extension of kitchen relief in July and August, few if any deaths can be ascribed to actual want of food. It has also to be borne in mind that the abnormally unhealthy conditions have prevailed among rich and poor, European and Native, alike. The returns for September are not yet fully available, but it is satisfactory to learn that, as far as can be judged, there has been a substantial improvement in some of the worst districts.

11. The monthly report on famine relief in the Chhattisgarh Feudatories is forwarded as usual for the information of the Foreign Department. In most of these States early rice is beginning to come into the market, prices are falling, and relief is being rapidly contracted.

No. 7.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 2465, *dated Nagpur, the* 19*th November*, 1900.

I am directed to submit the monthly famine report for the period ending the 27th October together with the usual statements. No map is forwarded this month, as distress is now so rapidly abating that it seems hardly worth while preparing a map to show its distribution.

2. Except in Chhattisgarh, where heavy rain fell in the first week of the month, there has been no rain in October. The weather has been clear and the nights cool with heavy dews at times. The fall at the beginning of October has finally secured the safety of the rice crop in Chhattisgarh. The harvesting of early rice has been in progress for some little time in that Division, and the main harvest is now just beginning. Excellent outturns are expected. In the Wainganga rice districts prospects are not quite so satisfactory, and the area sown has been smaller. Owing to the lateness of the monsoon, sowings were delayed and transplanting protracted. The heavy downpours at the end of

September would ordinarily have finally secured the crop, but, owing to its backward condition, the dry October has caused some damage, and there are complaints that the crop growing on dry lands has suffered a good deal and will not yield a full outturn. Juar and cotton both promise a good yield, but the former suffered a good deal from excessive rain in the north of the Province. Til has not thrived very well in the Nerbudda Valley, and the late millets in Betul will give but a poor yield. On the whole, however, prospects are bright; harvesting will shortly be at its height; and distress is passing away.

3. October was a month of general curtailment of relief. Works were closed, kitchens reduced in number, and the persons fed at them eliminated. Curtailment could be carried out more rapidly in the northern districts where early millets and miscellaneous food crops are of much greater importance than in the south of the Province. Famine Circular No. 56 prescribed a procedure, but left it largely to the discretion of local officers to decide the precise date at which each stage of that procedure should be carried out.

The usual tabular statements which follow show the extent to which contraction of relief was carried out in the several Divisions of the Province.

Division.		Relief Work.	Dependants on Works.	Poor-houses and Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Total gratuitous.	Grand Total.
Jubbulpore...	29th Sept., 1900 ...	14,594	425	64,415	17,200	82,040	96,634
	27th Oct. „ ...	1,458	60	6,369	5,380	11,809	13,267
Nerbudda ...	29th Sept. „ ...	25,740	677	68,936	19,968	89,581	115,321
	27th Oct. „ ...	765	—	9,295	12,194	21,489	22,254
Nagpur ...	29th Sept. „ ...	141,297	5,346	227,891	67,566	300,803	442,100
	27th Oct. „ ...	26,574	227	79,300	38,873	118,400	144,974
Chhattisgarh	29th Sept. „ ...	8,187	1,698	440,764	30,907	473,369	481,556
	27th Oct. „ ...	—	—	134,722	21,357	156,079	156,079
Total ...	29th Sept. „ ...	189,818	8,146	802,006	135,641	945,793	1,135,611
	27th Oct. „ ...	28,797	287	229,686	77,804	307,777	336,574

Details of the numbers shown as on work relief are given below :—

Division.		Public Works Department Works.	Village Works.	Forest Works.	Weaver Relief.	B. List.
Jubbulpore	29th Sept., 1900 ...	7,940	369	—	—	6,285
	27th Oct. „ ...	1,458	—	—	—	—
Nerbudda ...	29th Sept. „ ...	3,933	7,182	—	5,908	8,717
	27th Oct. „ ...	—	—	—	—	765
Nagpur ...	29th Sept. „ ...	36,460	2,279	5,332	17,902	79,324
	27th Oct. „ ...	1,715	942	—	—	23,917
Chhattisgarh	29th Sept. „ ...	6,646	1,541	—	—	—
	27th Oct. „ ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	29th Sept. „ ...	54,979	11,371	5,332	23,810	94,326
	27th Oct. „ ...	3,173	942	—	—	24,682

In the course of the month a million people have resumed their ordinary avocations, and 85 per cent. of the enormous total on relief in August are now able to support themselves. A good deal of relief was however arranged to close at the end of October, and the figures for the week ending November 3rd are as follows :—

Workers (B list)	...	...	...	...	5,233
Poor-houses	...	...	...	...	800
Kitchens...	...	...	...	...	132,273
Village doles	...	...	...	...	55,422
			Total	...	193,728

Complete figures are not available up to the 10th, but the telegraphed figures show 145,000 only on relief. Some districts report by telegram figures a week old, as the returns of the week are incomplete. The correct number is probably nearer 100,000.

4. By the end of the month relief had been totally or nearly closed in Damoh, Mandla, Seoni, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara and Nimar, and of those returned as on relief on November 3rd all but 15,000 belong to the south of the Province. The districts in which distress has been slowest to terminate are the rice districts of the south of the Province, and also Saugor, which has suffered from many years' depression, and Wardha, which depends almost entirely on the juar crop. In all of these a great reduction may be expected by the 25th current, and by the end of the month the relief lists should be clear of all but a few incapable paupers in poor-houses and pauper wards of dispensaries.

5. Imports have now come to a practical standstill, but prices in some districts have not yet fallen to a very marked extent. Imports having now ceased, dealers are able to hold out for full prices until the new grain can come into the market in sufficient quantities to compel a fall. The demand for seed for sowing has also enabled them to keep up the prices of wheat and gram. Still in many districts prices are much easier than in September. Rice has touched 15 seers in Chhattisgarh, and has cheapened a seer or two in Bhandara and Balaghat.

There is yet a month before the new rice and juar will come into market in large quantities, when the fall in prices should be very great. The grains of the rabi season are not, however, likely to fall to normal rates until next spring. In Chanda, where the area sown is believed to have been very short, and early varieties are this year very little grown, prices remain obstinately high, but a fall cannot now be long delayed.

6. The condition of the people is everywhere reported to be improving, but malarial fever has been very rife. Every class has suffered alike. The latest mortality returns available for the whole Province are those for September. This was the month in which the heaviest death-rate was apprehended, and it is satisfactory to find that on the whole there has been an improvement. The death-rates for the month of July, August and September compare as follows :—

District.	Death rates per Mille per Mensem.		
	July.	August.	September.
Saugor	7·46	6·51	5·60
Damoh	2·42	3·58	4·15
Jubbulpore	4·00	3·91	4·98
Mandla	1·90	2·15	2·51
Seoni	5·61	4·58	3·80
Narsinghpur	2·01	3·50	5·60

District.	Death rate per Mille per Mensem.		
	July.	August.	September.
Hoshangabad	6·67	7·44	6·18
Nimar	14·34	16·34	10·58
Betul	13·65	11·11	9·01
Chhindwara	15·78	13·09	9·01
Wardha	10·68	12·77	11·40
Nagpur	6·37	8·31	6·97
Chanda	8·68	9·35	11·40
Bhandara	8·25	7·32	7·12
Balaghat	7·07	5·23	4·08
Raipur	4·42	5·90	4·69
Bilaspur	3·86	4·26	3·97
Sambalpur	9·00	17·76	15·89
Total Khalsa	6·82	7·50	6·75
Chhattisgarh Zamindaris	7·26	8·49	7·72

7. In 13 out of the 18 districts there has been a fall in the death-rate recorded in September, the decline in the case of Nimar being specially satisfactory. Wardha and Chanda, the two districts in which a rise has occurred, are also the two districts in which relief was slowest contracted. The grievously high death-rate in Sambalpur has been the subject of special inquiries. The reports of the local officers were incomplete in certain respects, and the Administrative Medical Officer was directed by the Officiating Chief Commissioner to visit Sambalpur in company with the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division, and to report. His report is awaited.

The returns for October are not yet to hand, but, so far as they are available, they show a further decrease in the death-rate. If further reports confirm this result there will be every prospect of mortality returning to a more normal rate in the current month, and in December all unfavourable conditions should have passed away.

8. This will be the last monthly report to be submitted, as the final report on the whole famine is under preparation and it only remains now to wind up relief. As already stated, the kharif harvest will be in most places excellent and nowhere bad, and the prospects of the young rabi crops are at present encouraging. With the regular cold-weather showers a full yield should be obtained, and even without them there should be no failure.

9. The report of the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatory States, is as usual attached for the information of the Foreign Department. Mr. Sly is able to write very hopefully of the prospects of the crops and condition of the people in these States. Relief has closed or is just closing in all of them. But in two States, Patna and Sonpur, the mortality of the last two months, principally attributable to fevers, has been very excessive. A serious outbreak of dacoity occurred in Patna, for the suppression of which a special Police Officer with a body of British police has been detailed. It is believed that the outbreak was largely due to the inefficiency of relief arrangements in a portion of that State, and the Political Agent is dealing with this separately; but it is noteworthy

that the heaviest mortality has occurred in the Sonpur State, where the arrangements made by the Chief have earned special commendation. The question will be further dealt with in the Final Report.

CROP STATISTICS.

No. 8.

Note by C. W. E. Montgomery, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, Central Provinces, on the Crop Statistics of the Central Provinces for the year 1899-1900, *ending the* 31*st May*, 1900, *dated Nagpur*, 31*st July*, 1900.

In accordance with the precedent of the last two years, I submit a brief note on the crop areas and yields of the past agricultural year, based on special returns compiled in the Forms B, C and D appended to the Chief Commissioner's Annual Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration.

Statistics for the Jagirs of the Chhindwara District are for the first time included.

The returns for the Zamindaris of Chanda were not received in time for compilation and, in default, the figures of the previous year were used.

2. The inclusion of the statistics for the Zamindaris is sometimes a source of weakness. For want of funds, the Land Record Staff in the Zamindaris is not yet fully organised and can with difficulty secure accuracy; and the area for which returns are made is liable to yearly increase. For this reason, separate figures for the *khalsa* area, excluding the Zamindaris and Jagirs, are in some cases given in this note.

3. The pervading feature of the season was a failure of the monsoon, so complete as to be unparalleled for sixty years, falling upon resources drained by previous failures. The north of the Provinces suffered somewhat less than the south.

4. The returns show the occupied areas for the last three years, as follows, in acres :— Statement C.I.

Year.	Including Zamindaris.	Excluding Zamindaris.
	Acres.	Acres.
1897-98	21,613,583	18,925,093
1898-99	21,647,422	18,923,134
1899-1900 ...	21,718,066	18,968,734

The increase of 46,000 acres in the *khalsa* is satisfactory, but needs to be taken with qualifications; the cultivated and cropped areas are a more ready guide. The Jubbulpore Division shows a decrease, the other three Divisions an increase; but district figures vary greatly. The largest decrease in a district, however, is 3 per cent. in Saugor.

5. The following figures indicate the progress of cultivation as shown by the area cropped :—

Districts.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) of column 4 on column 3.	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) of column 4 on column 2.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		
Saugor	754,777	697,711	686,544	—2	—9
Damoh	433,283	403,344	417,914	+4	—4
Jubbulpore	889,320	942,666	863,541	—8	—3
Mandla	446,923	483,027	492,451	+2	+10
Seoni	574,339	595,812	552,250	—7	—4
Total Jubbulpore Division	3,098,642	3,122,560	3,012,700	—4	—3
Narsinghpur	545,278	539,723	551,052	+2	+1
Hoshangabad	857,227	857,342	812,942	—5	—5
Nimar	562,069	578,966	585,332	+1	+4
Betul	528,049	568,518	454,261	—20	—14
Chhindwara ... Khalsa	691,617	720,543	608,634	—16	—12
Chhindwara ... Jagirs	67,266	83,892	89,918	+7	+34
Total Nerbudda Division. Including Jagirs ...	3,251,506	3,348,984	3,102,139	—7	—7
Total Nerbudda Division. Excluding do. ...	3,184,240	3,265,092	3,012,221	—8	—5
Wardha	916,854	903,035	783,552	—13	—15
Nagpur	1,247,042	1,224,818	1,177,550	—4	—6
Chanda ... ... Khalsa	615,688	607,260	550,444	—9	—11
Chanda ... ... Zamindaris	202,746	191,134	191,134	*Nil*	—6
Bhandara... ... Khalsa	561,274	569,247	469,029	—18	—16
Bhandara... ... Zamindaris	235,343	257,204	192,011	—25	—18
Balaghat ... ... Khalsa	244,058	289,032	209,768	—27	—14
Balaghat ... ... Zamindaris	88,703	84,391	77,252	—8	—13
Total Nagpur Division. Including Zamindaris	4,111,708	4,126,121	3,650,740	—12	—11
Total Nagpur Division. Excluding do. ...	3,584,916	3,593,392	3,190,343	—11	—11
Raipur ... ... Khalsa	1,978,588	2,054,269	1,948,748	—5	—2
Raipur ... ... Zamindaris	403,720	431,962	453,874	+5	+12
Bilaspur ... ... Khalsa	1,125,536	1,231,313	1,165,732	—5	+4
Bilaspur ... ... Zamindaris	368,779	376,449	379,717	+1	+3
Sambalpur ... Khalsa	618,032	648,453	637,273	—2	+3
Sambalpur ... Zamindaris	499,407	552,661	525,028	—5	+5
Total Chhattisgarh Division. Including Zamindaris	4,994,062	5,295,107	5,110,372	—3	+2
Total Chhattisgarh Division. Excluding do. ...	3,722,156	3,934,035	3,751,753	—5	+1
Provincial Total. Including Zamindaris	15,455,918	15,892,772	14,875,951	—6	—4
Provincial Total. Excluding do.	13,589,954	13,915,079	12,967,017	—7	—4

The Province shows a decrease of a million acres in the area cropped. Large areas were prepared for both *kharif* and *rabi*, but much was allowed to lie fallow for want of rain. The cropped area has sunk even below the level of 1896-97. In the *khalsa*, decrease is most marked in the Betul, Chhindwara, Wardha, Bhandara and Balaghat Districts, Damoh ; Mandla, Narsinghpur and Nimar show a slight increase.

4. The contraction of the cropped area has occasioned a large expansion of the area under current fallows, which has increased by nearly a million acres from the area of 1898-99.

The area under old fallow has also increased since 1898-99 by a million and a-half acres.

5. *Double-cropping.*—The area double-cropped during the past three years is contrasted below :—

Year.	Including Zamindaris.	Excluding Zamindaris.
	Acres.	Acres.
1897-98	1,149,222	1,025,692
1898-99	1,235,684	1,089,618
1899-1900	167,855	142,370

The ground was far too dry for double-cropping and the current year's area is only one-eighth of that of the previous year. Double-cropping is of great importance in the two districts Raipur and Bilaspur, and in the *khalsa* of these two districts, the double-cropped area fell from 545,571 acres to 19,375. The fall was also serious in Jubbulpore, Mandla, Chanda, Bhandara and Balaghat, especially the two last.

Statement C-II.

6. The total area irrigated in each of the past three years is :—

———	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area including Jagirs and Zamindaris	562,784	654,269	352,232
Percentage to total cropped area	3·6	4·1	2·3
Area excluding Jagirs and Zamindaris	468,171	523,786	274,085
Percentage to total cropped area including Jagirs and Zamindaris.	3·4	3·5	2·1

Since there was but little water in either tanks or wells, irrigation fell off greatly. The number of both temporary and durable irrigation wells has considerably increased, but without water they were of but little use.

7. The returns show the number of plough-cattle as having decreased by 190,696, or by 7 per cent. This, of course, does not include the loss of cattle which occurred in the hot weather after the patwaris had compiled their papers.

Statements D-I. and D-II.

8. The following statement contrasts the kharif and rabi cropping for the three years 1897–98, 1898–99 and 1899–1900 :—

		1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900.	Increase or decrease of 1899–1900 from 1898–99.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Per cent.
Kharif...	Including Zamindaris ...	11,867,533	11,713,991	11,622,396	— 1
	Excluding do. ...	10,103,562	9,934,570	9,819,703	— 1
Rabi ...	Including do. ...	4,737,607	5,414,465	3,421,410	—37
	Excluding do. ...	4,512,084	5,142,127	3,289,684	—36
Total ...	Including Zamindaris	16,605,140	17,128,456	15,043,806	—12
	Excluding Zamindaris	14,615,646	15,076,697	13,109,387	—13
Deduct double-cropping.	Including Zamindaris	1,149.222	1,235,684	167,855	—
	Excluding Zamindaris	1,025,692	1,089,618	142,370	—
NET AREA	Including Zamindaris	15,455,918	15,892,772	14,875,951	— 6
	Excluding Zamindaris	13,589,954	13,915,079	12,967,017	— 7

The area under *kharif* was virtually the same as in the previous year, but the area under *rabi* fell off by over one-third and was even less than that of 1896–97. The gross cropped area decreased by 12 per cent., and the net cropped area by half as much.

9. The area under the principal crops of the *kharif* season contrast as follows with that of the two preceding years :—

Crop.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900.	Increase or decrease from 1898–99.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Per cent.
Rice	4,824,242	5,120,405	4,722,035	— 8
Juar	1,077,206	803,356	909,254	+13
Juar-tur	1,248,532	1,055,626	1,230,192	+16
Tur	175,887	166,288	193,049	+16
Cotton and Cotton-tur	734,477	734,538	805,289	+10
Til	557,362	510,587	806,654	+58
Kodon and Kutki	1,651,838	1,705,267	1,726,372	+ 1
Sugarcane	27,081	25,687	25,205	— 2

Rice has fallen off substantially, and sugarcane slightly ; the other crop have increased.

10. *Rice.*—There has been a contraction of 398,370 acres, or 8 per cent. in the area under rice. In the Chhattisgarh Division there has actually been an increase, and consequently the area under broadcasted rice, over four million acres, shows a small increase. It is in the Wainganga districts that the decrease chiefly occurs, and the area under transplanted rice—the speciality of those districts—shows a violent shrinkage from 839,000 to 423,000 acres. Transplantation was terribly hindered by want of rain.

The exports of rice for the last three years are as under :—

Year.	Maunds.
1897–98	866,218
1898–99	2,233,325
1899–1900...	788,124

Even the small export of 1899–1900 includes the reserved stocks of preceding years, and the needs of the Provinces were chiefly met by imports of rice from Calcutta and Burmah.

11. *Juar.*—Combining juar with juar-tur; the area under crop is :—

Year.	Acres.
1897–98	2,325,738
1898–99	1,858,982
1899–1900...	2,139,446

The area has increased by 280,464 acres, or 15 per cent. The increases occur particularly in the rice districts. Juar and tur were substituted for rice in fields which were too dry for rice.

Almost everywhere the juar crop began well and for a long time resisted the drought better than any other, but the continued absence of rain and abnormal heat eventually caused the plants to dry up without flowering. In Jubbulpore and Raipur, and in the districts of the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions, the crop was almost a complete failure and most of it was cut for fodder. Ringni juar has generally done better.

12. *Tur.*—The area sown with tur has increased by 26,761 acres, or by 16 per cent. The rainfall was favourable to the crop at the time of sowing which accounts for the expansion in the cropped area. The increase is noticeable in the Nagpur and Chanda districts and in the Bilaspur Zamindaris.

13. *Cotton and Cotton-tur.*—The area under cotton and its admixture has increased by 70,750 acres, or by 10 per cent. The decrease in 1897–98 in the area under this crop was due partly to the desire of tenants to replenish food stocks and partly to their impoverished condition, owing to which they could not afford to pay for agricultural operations.

In 1898–99 trade was dull, and there was little incentive to sow. The current year's increase was an indication of the improved condition of the

cultivators and of brisker trade. The following are the figures for the chief cotton-growing districts :—

District.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
Nimar	126,598	134,106	151,458
Wardha	284,147	305,228	309,968
Nagpur	140,764	153,533	177,404
Chhindwara, including Jagirs	50,276	49,146	58,406

The exports of the past three years, from the 1st October up to the 17th June, are :—

District.	Bales of 3½ cwts.		
	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900.
Nerbudda Division	48,116	48,581	31,828
Nagpur Division	60,136	89,785	66,312

The crop was very poor, but fortunately the market was brisk and exports were much larger in comparison with those of the two previous years than the outturn of the crop would have indicated.

14. *Til.*—The expansion of the area under til, by 296,067 acres, or 58 per cent., is one of the redeeming features of the season. The season favoured sowing operations, both of the early and late varieties, and this induced cultivators to place larger areas than usual under this crop. The difficulty experienced in obtaining wheat and other expensive rabi seed was a further stimulus in the same direction. The crop was poor, but the demand was good, and the very heavy exports put some money into the cultivators' pockets.

The exports for the past three years, for the period 1st October to 17th June, have been :—

Year.	Bags of 2½ Maunds.
1897–98	518,895
1898–99	425,102
1899–1900	783,776

The increased export is very satisfactory, even though it was partly drawn from reserved stocks.

15. *Kodon and Kutki.*—The area under these hill millets remained practically unchanged. The crop was a poor one, surviving best in Chhattisgarh.

16. *Sugarcane.*—The cultivation of sugarcane continues to decline ; and this year the crop was poor.

Sugarcane never does well without a few heavy downpours in the rains. These it did not get. Moreover, in the majority of wells, water was insufficient for proper irrigation, and much of the crop was, therefore, cut before its time, and produced inferior *gur*.

17. *Other crops.*—The figures for these crops are contrasted below :—

Crop.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Urad, Mung and Moth	522,906	544,842	273,045
Castor	317,961	363,508	243,283
San (Hemp)	53,664	38,767	42,963
Groves and Orchards	45,826	41,224	39,473
Garden crops	26,358	32,097	31,414
Miscellaneous Food-crops	345,474	313,680	344,179
Miscellaneous Non-food-crops	258,919	258,119	229,989

18. *Rabi crops.*—The following table shows the areas under rabi during the past three years :—

Division.	District.	1897-1898.	1898-1899.	1899-1900.	Increase or Decrease of 1899-1900 Figures over those of 1898-99.		Increase or Decrease of 1899-1900 Figures over those of 1897-98.	
					Actual.	Per-centage.	Actual.	Per-centage.
JUBBULPORE.	Saugor	275,323	338,149	301,364	— 36,785	— 11	+ 26,041	+ 9
	Damoh	189,957	204,426	178,973	— 25,453	— 12	— 10,984	— 6
	Jubbulpore	523,350	557,970	378,838	— 179,072	— 32	— 144,452	— 28
	Mandla	141,574	134,324	83,772	— 50,552	— 40	— 57,802	— 40
	Seoni	239,470	285,781	248,692	— 37,089	— 13	+ 9,222	+ 4
	Total	1,369,674	1,520,650	1,191,699	— 328,951	— 22	— 177,975	— 13
NERBUDDA.	Narsinghpur	254,789	307,157	258,668	— 48,489	— 16	+ 3,879	+ 2
	Hoshangabad	464,532	527,996	503,412	— 24,584	— 5	+ 38,880	+ 8
	Nimar	43,810	60,087	7,340	— 52,747	— 88	— 36,470	— 83
	Betul	164,338	194,302	86,668	— 107,634	— 55	— 77,670	— 47
	Chhindwara — Khalsa	217,427	247,936	121,328	— 126,608	— 51	— 96,099	— 44
	Chhindwara — Jagirs	19,744	15,397	15,978	+ 581	+ 4	— 3,766	— 19
	Total — Including Jagirs	1,164,640	1,352,875	993,394	— 359,481	— 27	— 171,246	— 15
	Total — Excluding Jagirs	1,144,896	1,337,478	977,416	— 360,062	— 27	— 167,480	— 14
NAGPUR.	Wardha	214,262	259,373	66,333	— 193,040	— 74	— 147,929	— 69
	Nagpur	485,708	523,309	324,361	— 198,948	— 38	— 161,347	— 33
	Chanda — Khalsa	241,467	248,585	180,806	— 67,779	— 27	— 60,661	— 25
	Chanda — Zamindaris	16,941	17,062	17,062	—	—	+ 121	+ 1
	Bhandara — Khalsa	242,812	282,728	141,466	— 141,262	— 50	— 101,346	— 42
	Bhandara — Zamindaris	72,338	82,336	17,969	— 64,367	— 78	— 54,369	— 75
	Bhalaghat — Khalsa	76,679	113,475	27,748	— 85,727	— 76	— 48,931	— 64
	Bhalaghat — Zamindaris	27,084	39,549	11,919	— 27,630	— 70	— 15,165	— 56
	Total — Including Zamindaris	1,377,291	1,566,417	787,664	— 778,753	— 50	— 589,627	— 43
	Total — Excluding Zamindaris	1,260,928	1,427,470	740,714	— 686,756	— 48	— 520,214	— 41
CHHATTISGARH.	Raipur — Khalsa	461,079	525,058	195,504	— 329,554	— 63	— 265,575	— 58
	Raipur — Zamindaris	44,347	55,146	35,147	— 19,999	— 36	— 9,200	— 21
	Bilaspur — Khalsa	266,856	319,031	180,950	— 138,681	— 43	— 85,906	— 32
	Bilaspur — Zamindaris	38,536	52,551	30,508	— 22,043	— 42	— 8,028	— 21
	Sambalpur — Khalsa	8,651	11,840	3,401	— 8,439	— 71	— 5,250	— 61
	Sambalpur — Zamindaris	6,533	10,297	3,143	— 7,154	— 70	— 3,390	— 52
	Total — Including Zamindaris	826,002	974,523	448,653	— 525,870	— 54	— 377,349	— 46
	Total — Excluding Zamindaris	736,586	856,529	379,855	— 476,674	— 56	— 356,731	— 49
	GRAND TOTAL. — Including Zamindaris	4,737,607	5,414,465	3,421,410	—1,993,055	— 37	—1,316,197	— 28
	GRAND TOTAL. — Excluding Zamindaris	4,512,084	5,142,127	3,289,684	—1,852,443	— 36	—1,222,400	— 27

The shrinkage in the south was much more stringent than in the north; the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions show a decrease of a quarter, but the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions a decrease of a half.

After the recovery of the previous year, it is deplorable to find the current year's rabi area below that of 1896–97.

19. *Wheat.*—The areas under wheat and wheat-gram for the past three years are as follows :—

Crop.	1897–98.	1898–99.	1899–1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat	1,570,726	1,792,484	1,078,938
Wheat-gram	744,845	890,744	698,771
Total	2,315,571	2,683,228	1,777,709

According to the accepted formula, the true area under wheat would be as shown below :—

Year.	Acres.
1897–98	2,203,844
1898–99	2,549,616
1899–1900	1,672,893

The current year's area is 34 per cent. less than the previous year's.

The normal wheat area of the Central Provinces is four million acres. In 1896–97 the area shrank to less than two million acres, but in the present year it was even less. The decline is most marked in Nimur and Wardha, but there the normal area is unimportant.

The season was very unfavourable to wheat. The soil was dry, the heat above normal, and the usual dews did not fall. With so small a prospect of a successful crop many cultivators had left their fields unsown. Mandla is the only district which reports a normal outturn; elsewhere a normal outturn was impossible.

20. *Gram.*—The area under this pulse has also declined by 185,433 acres, and on the whole only half a normal outturn was got in.

21. *Linseed.*—The area under linseed has also shrunk largely. The area returned is only a quarter of the average. The shrinkage is most marked in the important linseed-growing parts of Nagpur and Chhattisgarh. The area under this crop during the past three years is as under :—

Year.	Acres.
1897–98	635,770
1898–99	766,578
1899–1900	250,699

The outturns are very poor throughout the Provinces. In Mandla, where the rain in January benefitted the crop, the outturn is reported to be 70. No other district reports even half a normal crop; in Nimar and Wardha it was a complete failure. The outturn of the linseed crop is estimated this year at only 4,311 tons, and represents only one-fourteenth of either the previous year's crop or of the average.

22. The following statement shows the areas under peas, masur, and teori (lakh) :—

Crop.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Peas	92,280	129,020	72,190
Masur	188,534	180,353	132,203
Teori (lakh)	382,244	444 406	164,923

The decrease in area was accompanied by a fallure of the crops.

23. These are the true features of a year of universal agricultural depression, which has annihilated the improvement that followed the famine of 1897, and still further reduced the resources of the cultivators.

24. The average outturn (in the American notation) of all food stuffs was 53 in 1896–97, and 100 in 1897–98. It has fallen to 35 in the year under report. This is a clear indication that the gravity of the present famine is far greater than it was in the famine of 1896–97—1897–98.

25. Moreover, as the following table shows, the outturn of the year was only a quarter of the normal outturn of all crops on their normal area :—

District.	Outturn expressed in percentage of normal crop.	Percentage by which cropping has fallen below normal.	Out-turn of district. 100=normal out-turn on normal area.
Saugor	48	—33	32
Damoh	59	—28	43
Jubbulpore	34	—27	25
Mandla	50	—14	43
Seoni	47	—27	34
Narsinghpur	47	—19	38
Hoshangabad	39	—17	32
Nimar...	17	— 3	16
Betul	28	—30	20
Chhindwara { Khalsa	27	— 4	26
Chhindwara { Jagirs	29		
Wardha	34	—16	29
Nagpur	37	— 6	35
Chanda ... { Khalsa	33	—18	27
Chanda ... { Zamindaris ...	21		
Bhandara ... { Khalsa	20	—38	12
Bhandara ... { Zamindaris ...	13		
Balaghat ... { Khalsa	23	—51	11
Balaghat ... { Zamindaris ...	23		

Districts.		Outturn expressed in percentage of normal crop.	Percentage by which cropping has fallen below normal.	Outturn of district 100—normal outturn on normal area.
Raipur ...	Khalsa	26	—38	16
	Zamindaris ...	30		
Bilaspur ...	Khalsa	25	—29	18
	Zamindaris ...	26		
Sambalpur ...	Khalsa	40	— 2	39
	Zamindaris ...	42		
Total for the Provinces ...		34	—24	26

No. 9.

Note by F. G. Sly, Esq., Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, on the Agricultural Statistics of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st May, 1901, dated Nagpur, the 20th August, 1901.

This brief note on the crop areas and yields of the past agricultural year is based on special returns compiled in the Forms B, C (1) and (2) and D (1) and (2) appended to the Chief Commissioner's Annual Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces. The crop statements have been re-cast in accordance with recent instructions, and, where possible, the figures of previous years have been revised in order to admit of true comparison, but in some few minor crops this has not been possible.

The returns relate to the same areas as those of the previous year with the exception of the addition of a few newly-settled ryotwari villages, which are of no importance except in Nimar. In portions of the districts of Chanda, Raipur, Bilaspur, and Sambalpur, in which the land record staff was employed upon settlement or map correction, the statistics are estimates only and not compiled from field inspection.

Rainfall.

2. The monsoon set in about the middle of June, and during that month gave good rain in Raipur and Sambalpur, moderate rain in Saugor, Seoni, Nimar, Chhindwara, Nagpur, Chanda, Balaghat, and Bilaspur, but only light showers elsewhere. In most of the northern districts of the Province there was very little rain, and great anxiety prevailed in that part until the second week in July, when excellent general rain fell, the showers in the northern districts being particularly heavy. In the latter half of July the rainfall was heavy in Saugor, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Balaghat, and good showers fell in the remaining districts of the Province. The first week of August brought good rain to all the districts of the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions, and the falls were still heavier in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions. In the second week of this month heavy rain fell over the whole of the Provinces. During the second half of the month the rainfall was light with short breaks in most of the districts of the Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions, but was heavy over almost the whole of the Jubbulpore Division, Narsinghpur, and the Chhattisgarh

country. During the first half of September heavy rain continued in Chhattisgarh and in Jubbulpore, Mandla, and Nimar, and moderate to light rain fell in the other districts of the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Slight showers only were received in the Nagpur country. In the latter half of September continuous but moderate rain again fell in the Jnbbulpore Division, and there were more or less heavy falls in Chhattisgarh. In the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions slight showers fell in the third week, but were followed by heavy and continuous rain in the last week of that month. In the first half of October a cyclonic storm gave heavy rain in Raipur and Bilaspur, but with this exception the month was practically rainless and the monsoon withdrew unusually early, no rain being received in November. The rainfall was thus fairly suitable for kharif crops.

The rainfall in December was confined to the plateau and northern districts, but was unusually heavy. The weather during January was very unsettled and fairly general rain fell, the districts in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions receiving moderate falls, and the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh country light showers. Showery weather prevailed throughout the Provinces during February, the falls being heaviest in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions. Showers were also registered in March, April, and May. The distribution of rainfall during the second half of the year was thus most unusual, no rain for the most part being received in October and November, whilst exceptionally heavy showers fell in the following months. The conditions under which the rabi crops were sown were, therefore, not altogether favourable, and the subsequent heavy showers injured the crops when flowering and in the ear. The Provinces were visited by several hailstorms during the year. Taking the Province as a whole, the rainfall in the year averaged 55·46 inches, as compared with 44·65, the normal rainfall.

Character of the season.

3. The season was generally a favourable one for kharif crops. Sowings were retarded in some districts, but the subsequent rainfall was sufficient. The outturn of rice was generally up to the average. Jubbulpore and Sambalpur reaped a bumper crop, whilst the outturn in the important rice districts of Raipur and Bilaspur was but little, if at all, below the average. Transplanted rice generally did better than broadcasted rice, but the crop did not equal the normal in Seoni, Bhandara, and Chanda. Juar gave a fair yield everywhere, and was quite up to the average in most of the important juar-growing tracts. The year was a most favourable one for cotton, and the yield was generally a full one. There seems but litte doubt that the district estimates are below the mark. The outturn of til varied considerably from district to district; in the important til-growing tracts of the north an average harvest was reaped, but in Chhattisgarh it was somewhat below the normal. The smaller millets, kodon and kutki, which are important food-crops, gave a bumper yield in the north and an average yield elsewhere. Arhar was the only important kharif crop which did badly, being spoiled by rain at flowering time and by the attacks of caterpillars. The yield was generally only half the average, and was very small in Raipur, Bilaspur, the Nagpur country, and the Nerbudda valley.

The rabi crops were singularly unequal. The conditions under which wheat was sown were not altogether favourable owing to the absence of October rain, but a good crop was anticipated until prospects were injured by the excessive rain in January, February and March, which injured the grain in the ear and induced rust. The yield was about three-fourths of the normal, being better than this in the northern and plateau districts, but much worse in the Nagpur country. Gram fared still worse, principally owing to the attacks of caterpillars; the average yield was about half the normal, Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad, and Raipur being even much below this. The yield of linseed was also a poor one, being little better than one-third of the normal, the northern districts again doing better, whilst the crop was almost a complete failure in the Nagpur country.

4. *Statement C* (1).—The statistics of the occupied area require some explanation. Unless formally relinquished, holdings left fallow are not struck off the records until they have been abandoned for a period of two years. The abandonment of land is, therefore, often not recorded in the year in which it occurs, and it is probable that in some districts the statistics overstate the occupied area. This has risen from 21,688,948 to 21,787,638, or by 98,690 acres. The Jubbulpore, Nerbudda, and Nagpur Divisions show increases over the figures of last year of 77,600, 35,600, and 25,800 acres respectively; while the Chhattisgarh Division shows a decrease of 40,400 acres. In the Jubbulpore Division the districts of Mandla and Seoni show the largest increases. Of the Districts in the Nerbudda Division the occupied area in Nimar has risen by 37,696 acres. The districts of Narsinghpur and Chhindwara (Khalsa) show slight increases, while the area in Betul has fallen by some 15,000 acres.

Progress of cultivation. Occupied area.

In the Nagpur Division, the areas in Wardha, Nagpur, Chanda (Khalsa), Bhandara (Zamindaris), and Balaghat (Khalsa and Zamindaris) show an increase, while the Chanda, Zamindaris, and the Khalsa portion of Bhandara exhibit a decrease.

In the Chhattisgarh Division, the statistics are not reliable owing to map correction being in progress, but the decrease largely consists of holdings abandoned in the famine of 1896-97, which have now for the first time been struck off the records. It is not improbable that other holdings subsequently abandoned should be struck off. There is some increase in Raipur (Khalsa), Bilaspur (Zamindaris) and Sambalpur (Khalsa), whilst the decrease is in the Raipur Zamindaris, Bilaspur Khalsa and Sambalpur Zamindaris. The severity of the last famine has left its mark upon this Division.

5. The area placed under crops in 1899–1900 was the smallest recorded for years past, smaller than in the famine year of 1896–97. The failure of the rains did not admit of sowing. The present figures show a small recovery of 480,131 acres, or 3 per cent. To judge of the effect of the famine, the present figures should be compared with those of 1898–99, and this comparison shows a falling-off of 560,120 acres, or $3\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. The sowing seasons were fairly suitable, and this decrease must be ascribed to deterioration caused by the last famine added to the fact that it was almost impossible in some districts to procure some grains for seed, notably rice, although there was money ready to purchase it. The fact that the decrease is not much larger is due to the assistance given to cultivators by agricultural loans and grants from the Charitable Fund. The effect of the famine has varied in different parts of the Provinces. In the Jubbulpore Division there has been no backward step but an advance, the area placed under crop been larger than in 1898–99. The Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions are also nearly as well off in this respect as in that year. It is the Chhattisgarh Division which shows the most deterioration in spite of the liberal famine relief, and these varying results are in accord with other ascertained facts of the comparative severity of the famine in the different divisions.

Cropped area.

Taking the figures of the year, the cropped area increased in all the divisions, save Chhattisgarh. The increase in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions was 302,883, 183,664 and 482,739 acres respectively. This increase is most marked in Jubbulpore, Seoni, Chhindwara (Khalsa), Wardha, Nagpur and Bhandara (Khalsa and Zamindaris). The area in the Chanda Zamindaris fell by 62,000 acres.

The Chhattisgarh Division shows a decrease of 489,155 acres, which is common to all three districts, Khalsa and Zamindaris. Taking the year

1895–96, which was a fairly normal one, as a standard of 100, the decrease has been as follows :—

District.	1898–99.	1899–1900.	1900–1901.
Raipur, Khalsa	99	94	91
Bilaspur, Khalsa	102	97	92
Sambalpur, Khalsa	110	105	91

Whilst this decrease is largely due to deterioration caused by the famine of the previous year, a good deal of it is accounted for by an actual inability to obtain rice seed by cultivators who had the means to purchase it, and a quick recovery is expected with good seasons. The cultivators who freely used Bengal rice for food had considerable mistrust of it for seed.

Current and old fallows.

6. The expansion of the cropped area in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions has occasioned a contraction in the area under current fallows by 284,463, 145,937 and 415,589 acres, respectively. The area under current fallows in Chhattisgarh increased by 417,161 acres, but whilst the total fallow area in this division is probably not far different from that recorded, there is most likely considerable error in the classification between old and new fallow.

The area under old fallow has increased by 59,185 acres in the Jubbulpore and by 31,578 acres in the Chattisgarh Division. The decrease in the Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions is 2,056 and 41,320 acres respectively. Land not cropped in the two previous years has now been transferred from new to old fallow, and in some districts where this has been accompanied by an increase of the occupied area, it is reported that cultivators have not again cultivated fallow lands overrun with *kans* (*Saccharum spontaneum*), but have preferred the easier task of breaking up waste land.

Double-cropping.

7. The double-cropped area rose from 164,567 to 959,739 acres. In the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions the double-cropped area is in excess of the areas of the two preceding years. In the Nagpur Division the area far exceeds that of 1899–1900, but falls short by 78,566 acres of that of 1898–99. In the Raipur and Bilaspur districts, where double-cropping is important, the area is in excess of that of the preceding year. The amount of double-cropping largely depends upon the suitability of the rainfall, and during this year the conditions admitted of raising a kharif crop in the wheat lands of the northern districts and of putting down a second crop in the rice lands of Chhattisgarh.

Irrigation.

8. *Statement C* (2).—In 1899–1900 the area irrigated fell to a minimum owing to the absence of water. This year has shown a recovery of 147,173 acres, but falls short of 1898–99 by 256,948 acres. Irrigation is comparatively unimportant in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, but it shows signs of recovery to the normal standard. In the districts of the Nagpur Division, Chanda (Khalsa and Zamindari) returns 86,501 acres less than in 1898–99, the decrease in the Khalsa area being 75,830 acres. The other districts show increases over that of 1899–1900, but they are still short of the area of 1898–99 except Wardha, which shows an increase. The irrigated area in Chhattisgarh (Khalsa and Zamindari) shows a decrease of 85,407 and 54,159 acres compared with 1899–1900 and 1898–99, the decrease in Sambalpur being most marked. The explanation is that owing to the favourable rainfall during the year, irrigation from tanks had but in very few cases to be resorted to.

Plough-cattle.

9. The number of plough-cattle has still further decreased by 51,243. The decrease is observable in all the divisions except Chhattisgarh, where there is a slight increase of 250. The returns show a loss of over 200,000 plough-cattle, or 8 per cent. during the last famine.

Kharif crops.

10. *Statements D* (1) *and D* (2).—I now come to the detailed crop statistics which show the distribution of the crops between the two seasons. The area of crops grown in the kharif season during 1900–01 exceeds that of the two previous years by 301,680 and 42,076 acres, respectively. This for the most part represents real recovery, for it is accompanied by an increase of rabi cropping. The need for a quick renewal of food supplies and the cheapness of the seed of most kharif crops lead to an expansion of kharif cultivation after a famine. The Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions have contributed to the increase, the largest increase occurring in the Jubbulpore Division. The area under kharif crops in Chhattisgarh fell by 476,616 acres, the decrease being principally under unirrigated rice. The areas under the other principal crops, except tur and sugarcane, show an increase. The expansion is most marked in the Wardha and Nagpur Districts, where an exceedingly large area was devoted to valuable cotton and juar crops, which is entirely satisfactory. The increase is to be regretted in some of the northern districts where inferior kharif crops have ousted more valuable rabi. Betul shows the severity of its famine by the absence of recovery, short sowings being general amongst the aboriginal population ; a severe outbreak of cholera at sowing time also interfered with cultivation in that district.

Rice.

11. The ground lost in the famine has not yet been made up, the area being still short of the normal by about a million acres. The continuous rainfall at the time of sowing, and the scarcity of seed due to the failure of the crop last year, account for some of the decrease. The decrease is of most importance in the following districts, where the area sown with rice during the past three years is compared with that of 1895–96, which was a fairly normal year and is taken as a standard of 100 :—

District.		1898–99.	1899–1900.	1900–01.
Seoni...		86	41	66
Chanda, Khalsa		102	46	48
Bhandara	Khalsa	99	60	80
	Zamindari	93	68	76
Balaghat	Khalsa	88	63	72
	Zamindari	74	71	68
Raipur	Khalsa	95	95	77
	Zamindari	121	128	78
Bilaspur	Khalsa	88	89	69
	Zamindari	105	106	92
Sambalpur, Khalsa		109	105	92

Chanda shows a most serious decline, the area under rice being only half of the normal, and the decline in Balaghat has been large. The Chhattisgarh Khalsa comes out badly, whilst the decrease is also important in Bhandara and Seoni.

A normal yield has been reaped in most districts. In Raipur this was reduced to about ¾ths of the normal owing to the use of old seed, thin sowing, and careless weeding. The yield was also only about two-thirds of the normal in the important districts of Seoni, Chanda and Bhandara. The exports of rice up to date have amounted to the small quantity of 205,377 bags of 2½ maunds, so that the bulk of the crop has been reserved for the replenishment of stocks and for seed.

Juar.

12. Of the kharif crops, juar is next in importance to rice, nearly two-thirds of it being grown as a mixture with arhar. The area occupied by juar shows a large increase, but does not quite equal that of 1897–98. The amount of seed required is small, and food-stocks are replenished by this crop earlier than by rabi. The increase is large in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions, while the area in Chhattisgarh Division, where it is unimportant,, contracted. The increase in the Jubbulpore Division amounts to 26,000 acres and occurs in the Saugor and Seoni districts. The area under juar in Nimar, where its production is important, expanded slightly. In the districts of the juar country proper, viz., Chhindwara, Wardha and Nagpur, large increases are noticeable, and the outturn of the crop in these districts was good, being quite up to normal. The area under juar-tur also increased in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions, but decreased considerably in the Chhattisgarh Division. All the districts of these three divisions show an increase except Narsinghpur, Betul and Wardha, the largest increase being in Nagpur. The crop has yielded well in most districts, the exceptions being Mandla, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Bhandara, Raipur and Bilaspur, where three-fourths of the normal was obtained.

Kodon and kutki.

13. The area under these hill millets, which are important food-grains, has largely expanded in the Chhattisgarh Division, the increase being 250,686 acres, or 39 per cent. Owing to the difficulty and expense of obtaining rice seed, much rice land was put down to these inferior millets, so that much of the increase must be regarded as deterioration. The increases in the Jubbulpore and Nagpur Divisions are 66,478 and 27,808 acres, respectively. The area in the Nerbudda Division fell by 15,373 acres, the largest decrease (13,000 acres) occurring in Nimar. The outturn has been good, being a bumper one in seven and normal in all the remaining districts except Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad and Bhandara, where the yield was about three-fourths of the normal.

Arhar (Tur).

14. The area sown with unmixed tur throughout the Provinces shows a decrease of 37,000 acres, and this decrease is shared by all the districts of the Provinces, but is specially marked in the Nerbudda Division. This crop is, however, mostly grown as a mixture with juar, cotton and kodon, under which mixtures there are large increases. The district of Nimar, which grew 26,000 acres under this crop alone, devoted a much larger area to juar-tur and cotton-tur than in the previous year. The crop is of most importance in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, where there are large increases in it both sown alone and as a mixture. The outturn was generally poor, owing to damage from excessive rain and caterpillars. In Raipur the crop entirely failed, and the yield was only nominal in Bilaspur, Bhandara, Chanda, Wardha and Nimar. In other districts it yielded about half the normal.

Cotton.

15. In consequence of the relative cheapness of cotton seed, favourable conditions at sowing time and good prices, a very extensive area was sown. The area under cotton and its mixtures has increased by 108,662 acres. This increase was most marked in the large cotton-growing districts of Nagpur, Wardha and Nimar. The year was most favourable for cotton, and there can be no doubt that the yield was much understated, and that in most districts it was a bumper crop. In the final forecast of last December, the yield was estimated at 190,616 bales of 400 lbs., but the exports from the 1st December up to date have amounted to 236,807 bales as compared with 110,150, 144,185 and 103,331 bales in the corresponding period of the previous three years. Exports have thus been very heavy, and high prices have made cotton the most remunerative crop of the year. The profits of cotton cultivators must have been enormous.

16. The area under til has increased by 25,242 acres. This area, however, represents that grown during the kharif season. The area devoted to this oilseed during the rabi season is included in the area under "Miscellaneous non-food crops." The area in the Jubbulpore, Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions has increased by 56,991, 7,063 and 10,842 acres, while the area in the Chhattisgarh Division fell by 49,654 acres. The season favoured sowing operations, but it did not continue favourable and the abnormal heat of November did much injury. The early sown crop was fairly successful, but the cold weather til was sown under much difficulty owing to continuous rain. The yield was normal in most districts, but was only three-fourths of the normal or less in Seoni, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Betul and Wardha. The exports from the Jubbulpore Division correspond closely with those of the previous year. Those of the Nagpur Division increased by 25,000 bags of $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds, while those of the Nerbudda and Chhattisgarh Divisions show a considerable falling-off. Altogether the total exports have been comparatively small.

Til.

17. The areas under castor, san (hemp) and miscellaneous food and non-food crops have increased, while the areas under sugarcane, groves, orchards and garden crops have shrunk. A substantial export trade in hemp is springing up along the Great Indian Penninsula Railway.

Minor kharif crops.

18. An increase of 973,623 acres in the rabi area has taken place, but it is still far short of the area in 1898–99. In every district except Saugor, Seoni and Hoshangabad, there has been an increase, the districts in which the increase is most marked being Jubbulpore, Mandla, Balaghat, Raipur and Bilaspur. The Jubbulpore Division shows much the best, the acreage being but little short of that of 1898–99, whilst the Nerbudda and Nagpur Divisions show a decrease of 23 per cent. since that year. The Nagpur country received compensation in the large area put down to cotton and juar, but this is not the case in the Nerbudda Division. The unfortunate Hoshangabad district shows a still further decline even from the figures of the previous year.

Rabi crops.

19. The area placed under wheat and wheat-gram amounted to 2,189,508 acres and exceeded that of the previous year by 411,481 acres. If the mixed crop is resolved according to the accepted formula, the area under wheat is 2,018,290 acres, and is 24 per cent. above that of last year. Almost all districts have contributed to this recovery. But the area is still only half the normal preceding the famine cycle. To show the full decrease it is necessary to go back to 1891–92, which was a normal year. Taking this year as a standard of 100, the decrease in the important wheat-growing districts has been as follows :—

Wheat.

District.	1898–99.	1899–00.	1900–01.
Saugor	32	29	33
Damoh	36	35	42
Jubbulpore	77	46	71
Seoni	67	61	62
Narsinghpur	77	62	67
Hoshangabad	49	36	46
Chhindwara	89	44	55
Wardha	62	9	29
Nagpur	75	42	44
Raipur (Khalsa)	104	79	95
Bilaspur (Khalsa)	125	103	98

Wheat is not so important in the southern districts, where it has largely been replaced by valuable cotton and juar. Most of the northern districts show hopeful signs of recovery, but the decrease is still very serious.

The continuous rain during August and September interfered with the preparation of the land, whilst the absence of October showers was unfavourable to sowings in some districts. Continued showers in the cold weather injured the grain in the ear and induced rust. The year's yield has varied considerably from district to district. In the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions the outturn was generally but little below the normal, and in some districts exceeded it. Wheat suffered severely in the Nagpur country, where the yield was only about half the normal, whilst in Chhattisgarh the outturn was about three-fourths of the normal.

The export trade has been exceedingly dull, only 196,834 bags of $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds having been exported up to date, which is not a third of the amount exported in good years. Much of the crop has been withheld from the market for the replenishment of stocks.

Pulses.

20. The area sown with gram alone has risen by 118,353 acres, the cheapness of its seed compared with wheat being in its favour. The crop suffered everywhere from excessive moisture and from caterpillars, the yield being only about half the the average. It did better than this in some northern districts, but the yield was very small in Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad, the Nagpur country and Chhattisgarh.

The area under peas, masur and lakh (tiura) shows an improvement. The last-mentioned crop is generally sown as a second crop in Chhattisgarh, and 134,742 more acres have been so utilized this season.

Linseed.

21. The area under linseed and linseed-gram amounted to 518,082 acres and is in excess by 197,022 acres of that of the previous year. If, however, the area grown as a mixture is resolved into pure linseed, the area stands at 492,235 acres and exceeds that of the previous year by 185,302 acres. The conditions under which it was sown were similar to those already described for wheat. Continued showers in the cold weather injured the crop at flowering time and induced rust. The yield was about three-fourths of the normal except in the Nagpur country and Chhattisgarh, where there was practically a complete failure.

Other rabi crops.

22. The area under tobacco, garden crops and miscellaneous food crops exceeds that of the previous year. The area under miscellaneous non-food crops, however, shows a falling-off of some 52,000 acres.

General Remarks.

23. This examination of the agricultural statistics of the past year, following upon a famine of unprecedented severity, gives cause for relief that the deterioration has not been worse than that now found. There has been but little abandonment by cultivators of their holdings and the occupied area is as large as it has ever been, a decrease in Chhattisgarh being more than counterbalanced by an increase elsewhere. The area sown with crops is only $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. less than that sown prior to the last famine. The Jubbulpore Division has, indeed, done better than before the famine and it is again the Chhattisgarh Division which shows most deterioration. There is a considerable recovery in double-cropping throughout the Provinces. And this improvement has been effected although there has been a serious loss of plough-cattle. The less valuable kharif crops still displace the more valuable rabi in the northern districts, but there are signs that this form of deterioration is now arrested, whilst the expansion of cotton and juar in the Nagpur country is not a cause for regret. The year was generally up to the average, and perhaps above it in the northern districts. The kharif crops, with the exception of tur, generally gave an average yield, whilst the valuable cotton crop was above the average. The northern half of the Provinces, with the unfortunate exception of the Hoshangabad district, also

reaped a fairly good wheat crop, and fair gram and linseed crops. The rabi was extremely poor in the Nagpur country, but this was more than counterbalanced by the excellent cotton. The Chhattisgarh Division has fared worse; the season was favourable for rice, but the yield was reduced by the use of old or foreign seed and by insufficient weeding; the tur crop practically failed; and wheat was the only rabi crop that gave a fair outturn, the pulses being very poor indeed. And it must be remembered that these yields have only been obtained over much contracted areas.

SUSPENSION AND REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE.

No. 10.

Circular Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners, Central Provinces, No. F. 780, *dated Nagpur, the* 20*th December*, 1899.

I am directed to address you with reference to the suspension or remission of land revenue which may be necessitated by the present famine. It is essential that early orders should issue for the information both of the people and of the revenue officers with reference to the collection or suspension of the first kist. The decision as between collection and suspension must be made immediately; the decision as between suspension and remission can be made at leisure when more detailed information is available.

2. It is, however, impossible for the Officiating Chief Commissioner to issue any general orders applicable to the whole Province, as the circumstances of the various districts differ so greatly, not only as regards the crops just harvested, but also in respect to the recent history of the districts and the pressure of the revenue assessments. Wherever rice is the most important crop of the kharif harvest and has failed totally, an immediate and liberal measure of suspension appears to be necessary, and such small yields of the less marketable millets as may have been reaped will hardly affect the case. They will be needed for the food and seed supply of the cultivators. On the other hand, in districts where juar, cotton, tur, and til are the principal crops of the kharif season, it is probable that collection may be made, if not of the whole kist, at least of a fractional share of it.

3. One of the chief difficulties which surround the question is the extreme unevenness of the outturns. If every man reaped a six-anna crop (45 per cent. under the new notation), it might be fair to collect, say, a quarter of the rent and revenue due; but if the all-round outturn of six annas resulted from the fact that half the cultivators get in 75 per cent. and half only 15 per cent. of the normal outturn, it is obvious that a general order as to the proportion to be collected must be quite unfair. In these circumstances the nature of the order passed must depend upon the distribution of the areas which have yielded a crop of sufficient amount to justify the realization of rent. If in a large tract there has been general failure, but a few villages or a few fields have yielded a moderate outturn, it is not worth while to exclude them from the general orders at the cost of the delay and general uncertainty which must be involved before fair differentiation can be made. In the same way, if the failure is exceptional, and the bulk of a tract has yielded enough to warrant the payment of some rent and revenue, the general orders issued must be applicable to the tract as a whole, the particular exceptions being left for later concessions as details become known.

4. The Officiating Chief Commissioner believes that in most districts there will be well-defined agricultural tracts, *e.g.*, rice tracts and juar tracts,

which can be differentiated, in the general orders which are made applicable to them, without detailed investigation ; and, for the reasons stated above, even in cases where ultimate remission is highly probable, he prefers suspension in the first instance. If subsequent investigation shows that too liberal a suspension has been granted in the case of a village or tract than the circumstances warranted, the fact can be considered when the collection or remission of the suspended revenue comes up for decision.

5. In determining what, if any, fractional share of the first kist ought to be collected in any tract the past history of the tract must receive due weight. For instance, in Sambalpur, or parts of Nimar, which have enjoyed previous good years, or are paying a low revenue, and were not much affected in the past famine, the same liberality is not required as in districts like Balaghat or Betul. A recent enhancement of the revenue demand is also a fact to be considered. It is better to be more liberal in the year of stress and collect the new revenue afterwards with regularity than to impose too severe a burden now and afterwards hamper the working of the revised settlement.

6. Furthermore, in estimating the share of the kist which may be levied as judged by the amount of the outturn, it must be remembered that we are not dealing with a crop failure which has occurred once in a way among a series of normal years, but with a failure which falls for the most part on people suffering from agricultural depression in various degrees of intensity. In the Katol Tahsil of Nagpur, the Arvi Tahsil of Wardha, or the Dhamtari Tahsil of Raipur, it might be possible to demand a larger share of the revenue in proportion to outturn than would be fair in the Umrer, Hinganghat, and Simgah Tahsils of the same districts. In the standing orders relating to suspension of revenue contained in Revenue Book Circular I—9, it is indicated for general guidance that an all-round four-anna crop (30 according to new notation) justifies the levy of the full rent. This normal percentage applies to occasional fields in which crops have been damaged by hail. But for widespread calamities, especially where they have followed previous failures, the scale must, the Officiating Chief Commissioner thinks, be much more liberal than this. And the scale adopted must be adjusted to the needs of each well-defined locality on the lines roughly indicated in this letter.

7. As the matter is one of urgency, Mr. Fraser desires that Commissioners will indicate to him as early as possible the general suspensions which they would at once authorise, discretion being given them to make further local concessions at greater leisure. We must remember that, on the one hand, the expenditure incurred on famine relief which falls on imperial funds is on an unprecedented scale, and that revenue which can be reasonably demanded should not lightly be foregone ; while, on the other hand, it is most desirable not to deprive cultivators of the small resources which they may have for maintenance until a good food supply can be obtained, and for seed for the next sowing season. It has also to be borne in mind that undue pressure now by landlords for rent might force cultivators to sell plough-bullocks which they will urgently need later on.

8. The orders given above relate solely to the first instalment. As regards the second instalment, although it is practically certain in the case of some districts that the rabi outturn will be quite inappreciable, there are other districts in which rain at the close of this month or early in January would materially alter the position for the better. It is unnecessary therefore at present to make any decision about the second instalment. This can be done at leisure. But it is incumbent on all Deputy Commissioners through the Circle Officers and Land Record Staff to obtain as early information as possible in detail as to areas and outturns of the crops of both seasons. This information will enable the Chief Commissioner to come to a decision better as to the necessity of remission of any portion of the first instalment and as to the orders to be passed in respect of the second instalment.

No. 11.

Circular Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, Central Provinces, No. F. 44, dated Nagpur, the 26th February, 1900.

I am directed to address you in continuation of Famine Circular No. 36, dated the 20th December, 1899, on the subject of the suspension and remission of land revenue necessitated by the famine.

The previous circular provided for the prompt suspension of the first instalment wherever general information without minute differentiation showed such a course to be necessary; and in the last paragraph it directed general inquiry in order that materials might be available in time for a decision as to the second instalment.

2. Some instructions recently issued by the Commissioner of Jubbulpore to his Deputy Commissioners were recently forwarded to the other Commissioners for information, and these instructions (which have been since slightly amplified by Mr. Fuller) have now been printed and are appended to this circular. With such modifications as local circumstances may show to be necessary, they will be found most useful as a guide to the framing of proposals.

3. The main principle to which the Officiating Chief Commissioner attaches importance is that the total revenue demand of the year should be considered as a whole. The instalments which were proper at the time that the settlement was announced may have become unsuitable since, owing to changes in cropping during recent years, and this disturbing element will be eliminated by considering the marketable crops as a whole and the revenue of the year as a whole.

4. The arithmetical check, indicated by Mr. Fuller, by comparison of the figure of production of the year with the normal figures of production will be a useful aid to conclusions on general grounds. In cases where the cropped area of the season was normal or nearly normal the comparison can be made with the normal outturn of the cropped area of the year. In other cases, as, for instance, in the rice districts of Bhandara, Chanda and Balaghat, where the area of transplanted rice has shrunk into insignificance, it must be made with the normal outturn of the cropped area of the year preceding; and in a district like Hoshangabad, where deterioration has gone on for several years, the comparrison must be made with the area under the chief crops at the last settlement.

5. When it has been indicated in this manner what amount of the total demand it is fair to take, the next step will be to deduct from this amount the amount out of the first instalment which it has been decided to collect; the balance will be the demand on account of the second instalment. In all villages where the kharif crop was a total failure and the rabi crops have also failed or are quite insignificant, these calculations will of course not be needed.

In order to afford information as to the financial, as distinguished from the revenue, year which the concessions affect it will be convenient if the proposals are put into the following form :—

District.	First kist, Financial year 1899–1900.	Second kist, Financial year 1900–1901.	Total both kists.	Amount to be realised on account of both kists.	Balance to be suspended on account of both kists.	Amount already suspended on account of first kist.	Balance (col. 6—col.7) = amount of second kist suspended.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

It must be understood that cesses are to be kept quite distinct from land revenue, and should not be shown in this table at all.

6. As was stated in the previous circular, the Officiating Chief Commissioner desired that all revenue which it was not decided to collect should in the first instance be suspended. This decision must also hold good as regards the second instalment. By this Mr. Fraser does not wish it to be understood that he contemplates the ultimate collection of suspended revenue in all cases, but he does not wish remission proposals to be sent up to him piecemeal. The immediate duty is to decide what sum to attempt to collect in the current revenue year ; this is quite a distinct matter from the sum which is to be finally remitted. It is not unlikely that the sum proposed for remission will be large, and that a reference to the Government of India will prove necessary. It is essential, therefore, that the question of remission should be separately considered after the current year's demand has been decided. It will be necessary to consider each district on its merits. There are already arrears of the last famine and subsequent years outstanding which must be included in the reference, and the Officiating Chief Commissioner does not desire that the current year's demand should be complicated by consideration of the larger question.

7. Mr. Fuller has fixed the 1st of April as the date by which recommendations in regard to the current year should be sent in by Deputy Commissioners in his Division. This date will be equally suitable elsewhere. Commissioners should, after considering the district recommendations, send in a consolidated report for their Divisions, which should reach the Secretariat by the 15th of April.

8. The larger question of remission can conveniently be taken up in the rains. The revenue accounts of each district will have to be considered for several years back, namely, since 1894–95, their past treatment and history being contrasted with reference to the pressure of the demand, the re-settlement, if any, which has taken place or is about to be effected, the extent of arrears outstanding of suspended and unsuspended revenue, the suspensions of the current revenue year. Upon a consideration of all these circumstances will depend the decision of the amount of remission to be given, so far as a decision can be made independently of the character of future harvests. The information required can be summarised in a statement showing for each year from 1894–95 to 1899–1900, both inclusive, the following particulars :—

(1) Revenue year.

(2) The *current* demand (Land Revenue on the Roll only).

(3) Actual collections—

- (*a*) On current account.
- (*b*) On arrear account.
- (*c*) Total.

(4) The cropped area, percentage of normal (the area of 1893-94 = 100 normal).

(5) The outturn (100 = normal).

(6) Proportion of produce to normal $\frac{\text{Column (4)} \times \text{Column (5)}}{100.}$

(7) Percentage of total collection [Column (3) (*c*)] to current demand [Column 2].

(8) Arrears—

- (i) Already remitted.
- (ii) Suspended.
- (iii) Unsuspended.

9. A careful examination of the past history, of which the salient feature will be shown in the above statement, will greatly facilitate the decision as t the extent of remission to be allowed, and will lend support where support i needed to liberality of treatment. Mr. Fraser does not desire in any way t

anticipate a decision by stating at this stage what his personal views on the subject are. It is for Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners to make their recommendations as to what concessions they believe necessary, and these recommendations will receive the Officiating Chief Commissioner's most careful consideration.

10. Land revenue not on the roll, which is now practically all revenue due from ryotwari villages, does not require such detailed examination, and proposals regarding suspension, remission, or collection of arrears may be submitted from time to time in the Revenue Department. As regards the current revenue year Commissioners are authorised to order such suspensions as they think fit. They should report for information, in replying to this reference, what action they have taken and the amounts suspended. Miscellaneous land revenue has no concern with the present reference.

11. One more point remains—the collection of cesses. Standing orders are that cesses and revenue must go together, and when it is merely a question of a few isolated remissions here and there on account of local calamities, this is the best and simplest principle to follow. But these cesses are devoted to certain objects, and though they may be suspended or remitted, the expenditure on those objects cannot be similarly suspended or retrenched. The several District Funds and the Provincial Patwari fund cannot close business, because the cesses on which they depend are not collected. As regards the current year it is best not to complicate the situation by demanding cesses and separating them from revenue, but it may well be decided to collect the cesses later on, even though the revenue be remitted. It is the same thing in the end whether Local Funds are replenished by cesses, or whether, an equivalent sum being collected and credited as land revenue, Provincial revenues have to come to the assistance of the Local Funds, and recoup the loss incurred in uncollected cesses; but if this aid has in any case to be given it is better that it should, if possible, be given by collection of cesses directly.

In the case of cesses the detailed statement required by paragraph 8 in respect of land revenue is not necessary. All that is needed is a statement showing :—

(1) Outstandings at the commencement of the revenue year 1899-1900 with the year on account of which they are due, for—
  (*a*) Settlement cesses.
  (*b*) Additional rates.
  (*c*) Malguzari patwari cess.
(2) The demand of the revenue year 1899-1900.
(3) The amount suspended for the same year.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., I.C.S., C.I.E., Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division, to the Deputy Commissioners, Jubbulpore Division, No. C. 100, *dated Camp Bilthara, the 27th January*, 1900.

With the general approval of the Chief Commissioner, I have the honour to address you as follows in regard to the proposals to be submitted for the collection or remission of this year's land revenue.

2. It has been decided by the Chief Commissioner that so far as the kharif kist is concerned, nothing beyond suspension will be ordered. Whatever trouble may have been taken, the information on which your proposals in regard to this kist were based cannot have been complete.

3. The task is now before us of formulating final proposals for the year's land revenue as a whole. Having regard to the abrupt changes of soil which

generally characterize these Provinces, and to the extraordinarily uneven distribution of last monsoon's rainfall, I do not think that generally proposals will be satisfactory unless they are drawn up mauzawar. But where crops have failed altogether over a considerable and well-defined tract of country all villages included in the tract may be dealt with together, and in this case these instructions will not apply.

4. The first point to be considered is loss of cropped area since the year in which the present assessment was framed. For each village for which a suspension of total revenue is not obviously justifiable, there should be calculated the percentage of the current season's cropped area on the cropped area of the year of settlement, excluding from both totals, as non-revenue paying, the area under kodon-kutki and grass-birs. When the percentage is as low as 80, that is to say, when there has been a fall of as much as 20 per cent., it will generally be fair to reduce the revenue in proportion to such fall before considering the character of this season's harvests. Thus, if the cropped area of settlement was 593 acres and the present area is 420 acres, the percentage would be 71, and a revenue of Rs. 500 would be taken as Rs. 355 (for Saugor, Damoh and Jubbulpore only). But such a calculation will not, of course, be necessary in the case of villages, the revenue of which was abated last year, or will be abated with effect from the commencement of the current year. In their case the abated revenue will be taken as the full revenue payable.

5. In considering the revenue-paying capacity of this season's harvests, we need hardly concern ourselves with all crops, but merely with those which are sold to pay rent. These may be classified according to the way in which they have yielded or promise to yield this year, as—

1. Rice.
2. Juar alone or with arhar.
3. Cotton (with or without arhar), til and hemp.
4. Ramtilli (or jagni).
5. Pulses (arhar, mung, urad).
6. All rabi crops except masur and linseed.
7. Masur and linseed.

But this list is only meant to be suggestive. It may be that the kharif pulses are hardly worth considering, or, that where linseed has failed, masur has in your district not failed also. In the case of some villages which grow nothing but the small millets (kodon and kutki) it may be necessary to take them into account. But they are grown for food, not for sale, and I doubt whether they should be included.

6. For each village from which any revenue can be collected a line of figures should be given showing the area under its revenue-paying crops (classed in some such fashion as above) and below this line a second line showing in red ink the estimated outturn in American notation for each of these crops. To arrive at the outturn estimates is, of course, the most difficult part of the business. The villages should be listed by Patwaris' Circles and marked differences between the estimates of one village and of those near it should be looked into. I fear that there is an impression amongst the people that in the matter of revenue suspension or remission they are very much at the mercy of the Patwaris and Inspectors. The estimates which are sent in will, of course, be checked by the local knowledge of yourself and your Assistants and Tahsildars. Useful information will also be often obtainable from the Civil Surgeon and the District Superintendent of Police.

7. The two lines of figures taken with the percentage of total cropping will give you something definite to go upon in deciding what revenue should be collected. For myself I should like to assist my judgment by some such calculations as are prescribed by Revenue Book Circular I—9 for the suspension of revenue in cases of hailstorms. That is to say, I would compare the sum of the areas multiplied by the outturn figures with the sum of the areas multiplied by 100. But in making this calculation one important condition should not

be lost sight of, namely, that when the outturn of a crop falls below a certain quantity no rent-paying surplus is left, and indeed the seed sown may not be recovered, but that when the outturn exceeds this quantity, the rent-paying surplus increases in a much higher proportion than the increase in outturn. The less are the present resources of the people, the more important does this condition become. I think that it might be met by omitting from the calculation all outturn figures amounting to only 30 or less, and by deducting 10 from all outturn figures between 30 and 60 (both exclusive). Thus if the areas and outturns were as below—

Rice.	Til.	Rabi.
200	50	100
25	120	50

the calculation would be 200 × 0 + 50 × 120 + 100 × 40 = 10,000 (for this year) compared to 350 × 100 = 35,000 (as the standard). To allow for loss in cropping (when such loss amounts to 20 per cent.) the standard figure would be raised in proportion: thus, if in this case the cropped area was 80 per cent. of the settlement area the figures 35,000 would be raised* to 47,500 and the fraction of the revenue demandable would be $\frac{10000}{4750}$ lbs. or 21 per cent. Where the harvest is a fair one some allowance should be made for the profits which will result from this season's high prices, and for instance an 85 per cent. or 90 per cent. crop can certainly be taken as equivalent to the average. I repeat that if you adopt such calculations as these as a guide to your judgment it would be unnecessary to make them, or even to record this season's crop areas or outturns, in the case of villages which lie in a tract of which the whole revenue will be suspended, as for instance a rice tract which has gathered less than a 3-anna crop.

* *i.e.*, be multiplied by 100 and divided by 80.

8. The form in which the mauzawar list would be prepared would be such as the following:—

No. of Patwari's Circle.	Name of village.	Percentage of this season's cropped area or cropped area of settlement.	Crop Areas and Outturns 1899-1900.							Revenue-paying capacity.	Land revenue demand.	Amount to be collected with percentage on full demand or proportion in annas.	Balance to be suspended.	Rental to be collected by malguzars.	Remarks.
			Rice.	Juar and juar-arhar.	Cotton, til and hemp.	Ramtilli.	Kharif pulses.	All rabi except linseed and masur.	Linseed and masur.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
											Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
25	Rampur..	80	250	10	40	—	5	85	10	40,000 × 100/80 = 50,000	500	80 = 16 per cent.	420	120	
			25	35	105	—	100	50	15	8,350					

If you decide to make no use of arithmetical calculations column 11 would be omitted.

9. I have included a column to show the proportionate amount of rental the malguzar will be entitled to collect. This will be entered up after the return of the statement. Experience has shown the importance of expedition in informing malguzars of the share of the rental they are to collect, and as soon as this is settled, each malguzar should be informed of the amount by

notice and be called on to communicate to the Inspector or Patwari the details of its distribution amongst his tenants. This distribution must be shown in the jamabandi to be filed in July, and if the malguzar does not prepare and file a list he should sign the jamabandi. Unless there is precision in this matter, the rental accounts fall into great confusion. It is to facilitate the calculation of the rental due for collection that provision has been made for showing (in column 13) the proportion of revenue to be realised.

10. Villages should be arranged in the statement by revenue inspector's circles or by settlement groups. Totals should be struck for each circle or group, and should be shown in your forwarding letter.

11. Rents fall due on the 1st May or earlier, and it is of the utmost importance that the people should know what is expected of them in time to perform it. The rabi crops are this year much more forward than usual, and by the end of February it should be possible to frame as reliable an estimate of their outturn as could be arrived at without very numerous crop experiments. The statement should reach me by the 1st April at latest. It may be submitted in vernacular, but should, of course, be fully commented upon in your forwarding letter.

12. In forming your conclusions you will, of course, bear in mind that while on the one hand Government can afford to abandon no revenue to which it is fairly entitled, on the other hand, to exact money from impoverished tenants, who cannot pay it without trenching on their food supplies, may very possibly entail its redistribution to them in the form of famine relief. This is especially the case in localities where there is no sharp distinction between the cultivating and the labouring classes, as in the case of Gond villages.

13. In writing of revenue as to be suspended I do not, of course, mean to imply that any decision has been arrived at in favour of suspension as opposed to remission. I merely wish to avoid any appearance of anticipating the Chief Commissioner's orders.

No. 12.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 1175 *F., dated Simla, the 6th June*, 1900.

With reference to the circular instructions cited in the margin, which you have issued on the subject of suspension of the land-revenue demand, I am directed to request that the Government of India may receive at an early date a short report as to the suspensions of land-revenue already made in consequence of the present scarcity and the further suspensions likely to be made. The question to what extent the suspensions will be converted into remissions will, it is assumed, be kept over until the stress of the famine is over and a reasonable forecast of the next agricultural season can be made.

No. F. 36, dated 20th December, 1899.
No. F. 44, dated 26th February, 1900.

2. I am to invite attention to the paragraphs marginally given of the Land Revenue Administration Report of the Punjab for 1896–97 and 1898–99 on the subject of differentiating between well-to-do and needy landholders in granting or refusing suspensions, and to ask what course has been pursued in the Central Provinces.

Report, 1896–97, paragraph 15, page 33.
Report, 1898–99.
Resolution, paragraph 8.
Report, pages 39, 40.
Extracts from District Reports, Part I., pages 19, 20.

The Government of India wish to know on what principle suspensions have been granted, and whether the determining factor in the case of each estate has been the ascertained extent to which the crop has failed, or the ability of the proprietor to pay the land revenue from other resources.

No. 13.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I. C. S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F-1682, dated Nagpur, the 27th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1175-F, dated the 6th June, 1900, and to submit the following reply.

2. The two Circulars addressed to local officers on the subject of suspension of revenue, Nos. F-36 and F-44, dated respectively the 20th December, 1899 and the 26th February, 1900, are already before the Government of India, and I am to attach a statement showing the amount of revenue suspended in each district as the result of the inquiries carried out in accordance with the orders contained therein. This statement deals only with the land revenue actually on the roll, that is to say, the fixed demand payable by Malguzars and Zamindars. Action taken in respect of ryotwari villages will be referred to separately at the close of this letter.

3. The two factors which most influence the principles on which revenue has to be suspended in the face of a calamity like the present are, *first*, that under the tenancy law of the Province a suspension or remission of land revenue must precede a suspension or remission of rent ; and, *secondly*, that great promptness is essential if the full benefits are to be derived from the suspension. Theoretically, no doubt, the proper method of procedure would be to enquire into each tenant's capacity to pay his rent with reference both to the actual crops reaped and to other independent resurces which he might possess, add up for each village the total rental realizable, and demand the corresponding revenue from the landlord. This would be possible where a few isolated villages had been ravaged by locusts, or damaged by hail ; but it is practically impossible where the whole country side has been stricken by drought ; and it becomes doubly impossible when the energies of the whole revenue staff are concentrated upon famine relief. The time taken in enquiries so minute would be so great that the date for a decision would have passed long before the enquiries were complete. In such matters delays must be avoided at all costs.

4. In these circumstances capacity to pay independently of the crop must be disregarded so far as individuals are concerned. The Malguzar may be rich, but if we demand his revenue in full on this account, we cannot order him to suspend the rents due by his tenants, and he will have a free hand to harass them as he chooses, In order to protect them we must give him relief. To secure suspension of rent, we must grant suspension of revenue. It is the necessity of the tenants with which we have really to deal. Great masses of these have been severely stricken in the present calamity. There are some, no doubt, who could pay their rent independently of their crops ; but (as has been said above) to differentiate would necessitate inquiries which it is impossible to make. While however it is impossible to extend inquiries into the capacity of each individual to pay independently of his crop, this consideration may be given some weight when it applies to a tract of country. In Nimar and Sambalpur for instance the people have enjoyed sufficiently prosperous years in the past to be able to pay a larger share of their revenue than could have been demanded had preceding seasons been as bad as elsewhere in the Province.

5. With these preliminary observations I am to turn to a consideration of the orders issued, and the action actually taken. The first Circular, F.36 of the 20th December, 1899, called for very early and general proposals regarding the first kist due in February, 1900. The rents leviable on account of it fell due in January, and it was most important that such suspension as was plainly necessary

should be announced at once, leaving any detailed differentiation by villages to be made subsequently and given effect to when the second instalment fell due. The only differentiation enjoined by this Circular related to differences in crop outturns which could be easily distinguished over homogeneous tracts of country ; and in determining the amount of the concession to be allowed regard was to be paid to such considerations as past history, the recent introduction of a new settlement, the lightness or heaviness of the demand with reference to the deterioration or progress of the tract since it was last resettled. These were all general considerations suitable for a summary investigation ; proposals were duly submitted and orders passed. It is, however, unnecessary to specify the details of these suspensions, as they have merged into the general concessions carried out in accordance with the more detailed enquiries ordered by Famine Circular 44. Before passing on to this latter Circular there is, however, one point in the earlier orders upon which the Officiating Chief Commissioner lays much stress.

6. The standing orders of the Administration, contained in Revenue Book Circular 1—9, dealing with suspensions necessitated by losses caused by hail, locusts, &c., and contemplating detailed enquiry holding by holding, lay it down that if a crop amounts to 4 annas (30 by the new notation) the full rent may be demanded. It was pointed out in Famine Circular 36 that this rule, though applicable to occasional failures in ordinary times. was much to strict a rule when the country is suffering under a widespread calamity. If a few individuals in isolated villages are called upon to pay a full rent out of a 4-anna crop, it is very probable that they will draw upon savings or borrow. They may dispose of surplus cattle or pledge ornaments, but the chances are that until the next harvest comes round they will have added to their liabilities. It is, however, not unreasonable that they should be called upon to make such sacrifices. They will obtain fair prices for their ornaments, or cattle, and reasonable terms if they borrow. But the case is different when the whole community is in this plight. It hardly needs demonstration that, if the great majority of cultivators have to sell ornaments and cattle or borrow money, the blow to the community as well as to the individual will be infinitely more severe than it was to the individuals in the hypothetical cases referred to above. The prices obtainable for surplus property fall, and it is disposed of at a ruinous loss ; credit sinks to a low ebb, and those already involved are turned into applicants for famine relief. Where the position is still worse than this, where the majority have not even reaped a 4-anna crop, where credit is already low and bad years have reduced surplus property to a minimum, it is quite evident that such rule-of-thumb scales, as the one that a 4-anna crop justifies the levy of a full rent, must be abandoned.

7. It was on this account that the Officiating Chief Commissioner approved and circulated as a general guide the instructions drawn up by Mr. Fuller, Commissioner of Jubbulpore, for the guidance of the Deputy Commissioners of his Division. These instructions were appended to Famine Circular 44. The revenue-paying capacity of each village is roughly computed by taking the areas multiplied by the outturns of the chief marketable crops in every village and comparing the figure thus obtained with the moral areas under the same crops multiplied by 100. Thus, if a village paying, say, Rs. 500 revenue had a normal area, cropped with cotton, wheat, pulses and oilseeds, of 1,000 acres, the normal outturn on a normal area, would be represented by the figure 100,000. In the recent famine year its areas and outturns, let it be supposed, were as follows :—

Crop.	Area.	Outturn per Cent.	Produce.
	Acres.		
Cotton	300	60	18,000
Wheat	300	15	4,500
Oilseeds	100	25	2,500
Pulses	100	40	5,000
Total	800	—	29,000

Its revenue-paying capacity would then be $\frac{29000}{100000}$ or 29 per cent. But on the principle that the rent-paying capacity of land disproportionately increases when its outturn exceeds a certain proportion and diminishes to nothing when it falls below a certain proportion, Mr. Fuller proposed that outturns not exceeding 30 should be disregarded altogether and outturns below 60 should be reduced by 10. Reduced in this manner the outturn figure in the case given above would be 21,000 only, or 21 per cent., and this would be the proportion to be levied. The revenue to be collected in the village given above will then be Rs. 105 out of the full demand of Rs. 5,000. This would be announced to the landlord, who would be ordered to put in a list showing how he proposed to distribute the concession among his tenants. If the rents of the village were Rs. 800 he would have to collect only 21 per cent. of Rs. 800, or Rs. 162, and suspend the balance, or Rs. 638. This distribution he would be allowed to make among his tenants; and his list would be handed over to the patwari for entry of the demand made in each ryot's account book. In this way the landlord who would know best what each man could pay would be able to distribute the required suspension roughly according to the resources of each ryot in a way in which no Government officer could do within the time required. It is true that the landlord is thus given a very wide discretion; but he would be very foolish if he attempted to levy rents from the poor and gave up his chance of collecting from the well-to-do.

8. It might of course be objected to Mr. Fuller's calculations that this system would, if, applied in almost any year, result in the reduction of the full demand; but the reply to this argument is that this is freely admitted, but the system is not intended to apply to ordinary years. Moreover, it is only prescribed as a general guide, and the main object sought is to arrive at such a rough computation of the relative revenue-paying capacity of the many thousands of villages to be dealt with as will serve as a useful check on generalizations. When the proportion of the outturn to the normal has been estimated, other considerations may come into play. It might be decided that any outturn exceeding 25 and 50 per cent. (after the deductions referred to have been made) would justify the realization of half and the whole demand respectively. The proportion of demand to follow the fraction of outturn need not be rigidly fixed, but may vary according to circumstances. This is practically what has occurred; and the arithmetical guides have not been slavishly adhered to, as will appear from the summary which follows.

9. The table which is attached to this letter shows that in the Jubbulpore Division the amounts suspended ranged from 45 per cent. in Damoh to 74 per cent. in Jubbulpore.* The Damoh crops were, taken all round, better than those of any other part of the Division, but its previous history required consideration. Similarly, in the Saugor District, where 48 per cent. was suspended, different tahsils require different treatment. The deeply-distressed Khurai Tahsil could not be asked to pay anything, while the Rehli Tahsil will pay 83 per cent. of its revenue. In Jubbulpore the haveli wheat crop, which pays the lowest share of the revenue of the district, was very poor; and the extensive rice-growing areas in the north and east gave no crop at all worth mentioning. But throughout this division, where the amount of revenue suspended may seem to be disproportionately high as compared with the intensity of the famine, the previous history of the country has been a most important factor. The extent of deterioration has had to be considered.

*Saugor ...	...	...	48
Damoh ...	...	...	45
Jubbulpore	...	...	74
Mandla ...	...	...	55
Seoni ...	...	...	60

10. In Narsinghpur also, in the Nerbudda Division, where there is hardly any famine-relief being given, and the district is rather affected than distressed, the proportion of revenue suspended (54 per cent.) may appear unduly high. The general outturn of the district, however, only amounted to about 39 per cent. of the normal, the district has not enjoyed very liberal concessions hitherto, although it has suffered a good deal from bad seasons and was somewhat severely affected in the famine of 1896-97. Moreover, when districts are hovering on the verge of famine, it is far better to forego a little revenue than to risk driving the poorer cultivators in to seeking relief and depriving the better ones of the means

to employ labour. It was on these grounds that rather more liberal suspensions were granted in these districts than the extent of the failure might seem to warrant. In Hoshangabad, another district which has suffered severely from a series of bad seasons, the proportion suspended is 58 per cent.; and special care has been taken by the Deputy Commissioner to modify arithmetical deductions in the light of local knowledge; but the full revenue has only been demanded in the few cases in which the outturn reached 70 per cent.

11. In Nimar, a district in which the current year's failure was very complete, the people were better off and had enjoyed good crops in previous years. The amount suspended is only 43 per cent. Viewed on the crops alone greater liberality would have been justified, but in this district the people are not so badly off as elsewhere. Facts justified our concession. For the crops are mainly kharif, and the people are accustomed to pay rents and revenue mainly in the first instalment. Before, therefore, the necessary calculations could be made, the Deputy Commissioner found that a considerable amount of rent had been collected and revenue voluntarily paid in. The Deputy Commissioner therefore framed his proposals mainly on the amount of rent collection. Of the two remaining districts of the Nerbudda Division, in Chhindwara arithmetical considerations pointed to a suspension of about Rs. 2,20,000, but this district has not appreciably deteriorated, and the amount actually recommended for suspension and sanctioned was Rs. 1,65,000 or 57 per cent. of the total demand. The difference arose from the fact that when the outturns were substantial the proportion levied exceeded the arithmetical share. In Betul the crop outturns were really nominal, and the amount to be collected, Rs. 6,000 out of Rs. 2,71,000, represents the demand made in a few fortunate villages which partially escaped the general ruin.

12. To turn next to the Nagpur Division, in the two districts of Wardha and Nagpur, where rice is of little importance (except in a strip of Nagpur which was specially treated), the only crops which yielded well were cotton (in parts) and til. These districts had hitherto avoided actual famine, and were accounted fairly prosperous, but they have had very indifferent seasons for several years and suffered severely (Wardha especially) in the present failure; juar yielded hardly any grain, and the rabi crops practically gave no outturn. The Nagpur proposals were received late and have been returned for revision; and the figures entered in the statement are, therefore, approximate only. It will probably only be possible to collect about 40 per cent. In Wardha 77 per cent. has been suspended. In this district also actual rent collections have been used to modify the deductions drawn from outturn calculations. In the three great rice districts of the Division the failure of rice was so complete that nothing can be demanded from the rice tracts. The sums shown for collection against Bhandara and Chanda represent the demand made on the non-rice tracts, which fared better than the similar country in Nagpur and Wardha. Balaghat has but little non-rice land, and it suffered so severely both in the present and previous years that it would have been impossible to collect anything.

13. In Chhattisgarh (excluding Sambalpur) only a few isolated tracts and some of the Zamindaris partially escaped the general failure, and the sums to be realized are quite trifling. But the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur suffered greatly in 1896–97. Sambalpur on the other hand profited by the high prices of 1896–97; its revenue is specially low, and its previous history favourable. Severe famine in the present year was confined in this district to a few localities. Suspension has been freely given in the areas most affected, but the amount is not large on the whole, only 15 per cent. of the total demand.

14. The foregoing summary will have indicated that, while there has been considerable weight allowed to general considerations which affect the several tracts and districts as a whole, the main basis of the calculation has been the crop of the year. Except in the few cases in which ability to pay has been demonstrated by actual payment without coercion, personal considerations have had no influence on the proposals for suspension. On the whole (accepting approximate figures for Nagpur) out of a total demand of Rs. 86,86,000, the sum of Rs. 60,25,000, or 70 per cent. in round numbers, has been suspended. This may be taken to represent an equivalent rent suspension of at least a crore

of rupees. Although it is improbable that any large portion of this could without resort to some coercion have been realized, yet the result of these liberal concessions will be to leave a large sum of money in the country which must have a beneficial effect upon the means and credit of the cultivating classes, even if it has not saved a good many cultivators from coming on relief. I am to express a hope that the action taken will meet with the approval of the Government of India.

15. I am now to make a brief reference to the case of ryotwari villages. The ryotwari demand over the whole Province only amounts at present to about 2½ lakhs of rupees. The only districts in which there are ryotwari areas of any importance are Nimar, Mandla, Chanda and Balaghat. In Mandla and Balaghat the ryots largely consist of Gonds with little or no capital. In Nimar and Chanda the ryots are of better cultivating classes. In both these last districts the failure of crops was very severe; and in Nimar particularly, unlike the malguzari areas of that district, the ryotwari tracts have had a series of bad years before they were even well established. Commissioners have been given authority to suspend revenue in the case of ryotwari villages. Complete information regarding them has not been received, but as yet very little capital has had time to be collected in ryotwari areas, and there is little likelihood that any substantial sum will be demanded from them this season. In these ryotwari areas, though the amount to be levied from the village could easily be calculated in the same manner as in malguzari villages, the Revenue Officer would not have the assistance of a proprietor to distribute the demand among the ryots. But as these villages become better established and the status of patels is improved (to which end steps are already being taken) there is no reason to think that village officers could not be trusted to give reliable advice on the distribution of the revenue demand between the ryots, provided that the reduced demand had been first worked out for the village as a whole. For the present, however, it has not been necessary to resort to such a procedure. But whether the tract be malguzari or ryotwari the general principle which has been followed in these proceedings, and M. Fraser would submit that it is the best one, is that where losses are isolated and few it is proper to work from detail to aggregate, but where the calamity is widespread the only possible course is to work from aggregate to detail.

Enclosure in No. 13.

Statement showing the amount of revenue suspended in each District (referred to in paragraph 2 of letter No. F-1682, *dated the 27th June,* 1900).

District.	Total demand for the revenue year 1899–1900. (*a*)	Amount suspended. (*b*)	Balance for collection. (*c*)	Percentage of (*c*) on (*a*).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Saugor	5,23,326	2,52,277	2,71,049	52
Damoh	3,97,991	1,79,455	2,18,536	55
Jubbulpore	9,34,426	6,90,714	2,43,712	26
Mandla	1,04,871	58,012	46,859	45
Seoni	2,89,003	1,72,321	1,16,682	40
Narsinghpur	6,34,660	3,40,275	2,94,385	46
Hoshangabad	7,67,647	4,41,438	3,26,209	42

Statement showing the amount of revenue suspended in each District—continued.

District.	Total demand for the revenue year 1899–1900. (*a*)	Amount suspended. (*b*)	Balance for collection. (*c*)	Percentage of (*c*) on (*a*).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Nimar	2,85,776	1,23,000	1,62,776	57
Betul	2,71,406	2,65,213	6,193	2
Chhindwara	2,91,437	1,64,684	1,26,753	43
Wardha	6,40,878	4,90,459	1,50,419	23
Nagpur	9,85,771	6,00,000	3,85,771	39
Chanda	2,88,519	2,13,959	74,560	26
Bhandara	5,03,027	4,32,417	70,610	14
Balaghat...	2,39,200	2,39,200	—	—
Raipur	8,51,271	8,36,387	14,884	2
Bilaspur...	5,11,576	5,00,965	10,611	2
Sambalpar	1,65,238	24,496	1,40,742	85
TOTAL	86,86,023	60,25,272	26,60,751	30

No. 14.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 1,578 F., dated Simla, the 20th July, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Craddock's letter, No. 1,682 F., dated 27th June, 1900, submitting a report on the suspensions of the land revenue demand in the famine stricken districts of the Central Provinces.

2. The Governor General in Council has read the report with interest and I am to express approval of the action which you have taken in the matter.

3. It is understood that the question of remissions of the suspended demand will be postponed until distress shows signs of declining, and the result of the autumn and the prospects of the winter crop are known. Remissions on a large scale will, doubtless, in any case, have to be made; but, should the crop prospects be good, a considerable portion of the suspended revenue should be capable of realization by instalments without hardship to tenants and landlords. It is almost unnecessary to observe that in collecting hereafter such portions of the suspended revenue as is considered capable of realization, care will have to be taken not to realise too quickly on the return of favourable seasons, as otherwise the good effect of suspensions might be undone.

RELIEF MEASURES AND REGULATION OF ADMISSION TO RELIEF WORKS AND KITCHENS.

No. 15.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 408 *F., dated Calcutta, the* 1*st March*, 1900.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Craddock's letter* No. 238, dated the 3rd February, 1900, replying to this departments circular letter of the 27th December, 1899, in which attention was drawn to the great rise in the numbers in receipt of famine relief, and the views of the Governor General in Council communicated on some of the principles of famine administration. The Governor General in Council observes with satisfaction that your views are in general accordance with the policy there described as to the more effective enforcement of proper precautions and adequate tests in the administration of famine relief. My present letter will be confined to two or three points in connection with the action taken or proposed to be taken by you to give effect to that policy, on which the orders of the Government of India are sought by you or an expression of their views is desirable.

2. In paragraph 17 of your Secretary's letter it is stated that you have decided, as a temporary measure, to prohibit further admissions to all Public Works Department relief camps in the Chhattisgarh Division, and to direct that persons applying for employment on such works shall be referred to the charge officers of their track for employment on village works. For the views of the Government of India on such restrictions I am directed to invite attention to the correspondence on this subject (copy enclosed) which has lately passed between them and the Resident at Hyderabad. As in the somewhat analogous case of Berar, the Government of India approve the measures you have taken in the Chhattisgarh Division on the understanding that they are temporary, and that they have been advised to meet a temporary and peculiar emergency. The Government of India do not think that it would be either safe or practicable, as a permanent measure, to constitute the charge officer of the tract the judge in each case of a person's eligibility for relief by means of work, or to make the village work the sole door of entrance to large relief works under professional management. In assenting to your action as a temporary expedient, intended to give time for putting the large relief camps into thorough order, the Government of India wish to be informed how long the restriction is to continue in force.

3. Another reason for making this restriction a temporary one is the possible effect it may have on the number of persons employed on village works in the Chhattisgarh Division. The number is already very large in the Raipur district, and both in it and in the Bilaspur district the effect of your orders will be to considerably increase the relief population on village works, thereby making it increasingly difficult to ensure that these scattered works are properly supervised and that labour is duly tasked. It is indeed stated in your letter that in the Chhattisgarh Division a relief work managed by the Public Works Department is more attractive to the people than a village work. The Government of India are constrained to say that this is altogether opposed to experience elsewhere, and they imagine it could only be true as regards Chhattisgarh if the professionally managed relief works in that division are at present so imperfectly organized as to make the enforcement of discipline and the exaction of proper tasks impracticable. All experience shows that village works are liable to become dangerously attractive to the people, and as regards Chhattisgarh it seems probable that the one effective safeguard hitherto existing there against this danger is that the numbers are in practice kept down by the

* *See* page 448 of Command Paper 205, presented in 1900.

ticket admission system. No one, it is understood, is allowed on a village work unless he obtains a ticket from a circle or charge officer or a Tahsildar, who is required to satisfy himself that the applicant is necessitous, and in case of doubt has hitherto referred him to a Public Works camp. So long as this was the rule, there was no real equality of conditions between the two classes of works, and no conclusion could be founded on the fact that on professionally managed works the numbers increased more rapidly than on village works. Now that the charge or circle officer has no longer the assurance that an applicant has the professionally managed works open to him if refused a ticket for the village work, his inclination will be to admit more freely to the latter, and the check on numbers which has hitherto existed with regard to this class of works will become less operative.

On all grounds it is therefore desirable that the effect of the action taken in Chhattisgarh should, as you propose, be most carefully watched.

4. With regard to the Nagpur and Nerbudda Divisions, the Government of India are glad to hear that there is no present necessity for similar action. With regard to the Jubbulpore Division you state that the Commissioner has already been successful in regulating admission to his test works by tickets and that you have authorised him to try whether a similar procedure cannot also be worked with success with regard to Public Works Department works. The Governor General in Council agrees to the proposal only as an experiment, to be confined to the Jubbulpore Division where the circumstances are special. He also considers it essential that efficient arrangements should be made in all villages by the circle and charge officers and the Tahsildars to give persons the opportunity of applying for admission tickets without a troublesome and uncertain journey, and that tickets should be granted not merely when destitution is clearly proved but also in all doubtful cases. The civil officers, in charge of relief works should also be authorised and required to admit all applicants whose physical condition indicates their need for relief, and their conduct in this matter should be strictly supervised.

5. I am to add that though the Government of India assent to the experiment in deference to your views, they are not by any means assured either that the ticket system is necessary in the Jubbulpore Division, where the Public Works organization is presumably sufficient, or that it can be exercised so as to safely discriminate between man and man, or can be kept free from corruption. They should therefore like to receive a special report on its working after it has been six weeks in force, and they consider that your sanction should be made strictly conditional on the results of further experience.

No. 16.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F-825, dated Nagpur, the 4th April, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 408-F, dated the 1st March, 1900, conveying the remarks and orders of the Government of India upon special measures regulating admission to relief works in the Chhattisgarh and Jubbulpore Divisions, which were reported in paragraphs 17 and 20 of my letter, No. F-238, of the 3rd February last.

2. Your letter under reply was received by the Officiating Chief Commissioner while he was on a tour of inspection in the Raipur District in the beginning of March, and as he had arranged to visit the Jubbulpore Division later on in the month he has deferred a reply until that visit also had been made.

3. In respect of relief works in Chhattisgarh, you state that the Government of India approve of the action taken in closing works to new admissions, on the understanding that this proceeding was to be temporary only and designed to meet a temporary emergency. That the expedient should be a temporary one, to afford a breathing time while disorganised camps could be set in order and new ones opened, was all along the Officiating Chief Commissioner's intention. The effect of the measure can best be judged from the following figures :—

District.	27th January.			24th March.		
	No. of Camps.	No. of Relief Workers.	Average per Camp.	No. of Camps.	No. of Relief-Workers.	Average per Camp.
Raipur	22	190,533	8,661	41	194,876	4,753
Bilaspur ...	13	102,978	7,921	24	81,465	3,394

The numbers on Village Works in the two districts on the same dates contrast as follows :—

——	27th January.	24th March.
Raipur	186,276	200,300
Bilaspur	37,264	64,508

The aggregate of those employed on both kinds of works has not risen very much in either district—*i.e.*, from 376,800 to 395,000 in Raipur, and from 141,000 to 146,000 in Bilaspur—but the means of employing them and of enforcing discipline in the Public Works Department camps have much improved.

4. Mr. Fraser accordingly ordered on the occasion of his recent visit to Raipur that Public Works Department camps were to be again opened to free admissions, with the exception of a few works, to be specified from time to time, which had not reached a sufficient stage of organisation or had become temporarily disorganised. The Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer were to arrange the matter subject to the advice of the Commissioner. Weakly gangs were to be organised on all works, and all works without exception were to be open to the admission of persons only fit for employment in weakly gangs. It was clearly to be understood that the majority of works were to be open. There will be, the Officiating Chief Commissioner thinks, no risk under these orders of anybody being refused relief who really requires it. Nor does Mr. Fraser believe that the temporary closure of works had any bad effect. During the period of closure there was a large extension of village works and kitchens.

5. I am now to turn to the arrangements made in the Jubbulpore Division. The Officiating Chief Commissioner inspected a few works in the Jubbulpore and Saugor districts during his visit to the Division, and discussed the procedure in force with the Commissioner and the local officers. I am to forward a copy of the rules issued by Mr. Fuller, and of his letter, No. 2672, of the 18th March, showing the result of his action. The rules are of a simple nature and explain themselves, the principle being that everybody resident within a 4-mile radius of a relief work must procure a ticket before he can be admitted to the work. If he is rejected wrongly he can be admitted without question at another work, his acceptance of this distance test being admitted as qualifying him for relief. It is no doubt true that when distress is not very

severe there are many people in a village who will go to work at a camp close to their homes, but who are not really distressed and will not go on it unless it is easy accessible. A moderate rabi harvest has been reaped in a considerable part of the Division, and very acute distress is not apprehended. In these circumstances the rules seem to the Officiating Chief Commissioner to be well calculated to prevent money being wasted on persons not in real need ; and for the present, at least, the system is not attended by any risk. The condition of the people is very superior to that observed in rice districts, general health is good, and mortality low. Mr. Fraser would, therefore, ask the permission of the Government of India to allow the system to continue in this Division, unless and until it is found necessary to abandon it.

6. The question naturally arises whether a similar method of confining relief to the really distressed might not be introduced in other parts of the Province also ; but, after giving the matter full consideration, Mr. Fraser has come to the conclusion that this would now be impossible. When distress is severe, it is doubtful whether, even in its initial stages, such a procedure could safely be carried out. It is possible that if introduced from the first, before the people had left their villages, it might have proved workable ; but to examine into the circumstances of each individual of the vast hordes of people now on relief works in our rice districts, would at this stage be out of the question. Mr. Fraser has, therefore, no desire to extend the system to other parts of the Province.

7. Another point touched on in your letter is the alleged popularity of large Public Works Department Works as compared with Village Works. Where distress is not very acute the village work for the residents of the village where it is actually in progress would certainly be the more popular ; but it is not so in our rice districts. There the extra pice obtainable on the Public Works Department Work, the kitchen for dependants, the arrangements for water and for the purchase of grain, fully outweigh the disadvantage, if any, arising from the extra discipline enforced. To this discipline the relief-worker soon accustoms himself ; he is by nature a creature of routine, and when once he has made up his mind to a course of steady daily labour he readily accepts a stricter discipline in consideration of an extra pice and organised arrangements for his comfort. Different circumstances might no doubt produce a different case. But in the circumstances with which we are dealing, local officers are everywhere agreed that the large work is the more popular, and Mr. Fraser himself, when in Raipur, came across numerous instances of desertion from the Village to a Public Works Department Work. It is also far from being the case that the Village Work is unsupervised ; the numbers on it are small, the workers are concentrated within a small compass, and the malguzar who will benefit by the work will generally take care that a proper task is rendered. The task also is easily checked ; and the charge officers and other inspecting officers have been constantly on the move, and have supervised these works well. Mr. Fraser has inspected not a few, and has been satisfied of this. Certainly had not Village Works been largely extended in Chhattisgarh, the programme of useful Public Works would have been rapidly exhausted, and the camps would have been swamped by undisciplined rabbles.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., I.C.S., C.I.E., Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division, to the Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 2,672, *dated Jubbulpore, the* 18*th March*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, a set of instructions which I issued last month to the Deputy Commissioners of Saugor, Jubbulpore, and Seoni—the only districts in which Public Works Department relief charges have been opened in this Division—under the authority given me by paragraph 4 of your letter, No. F. 173, dated the 22nd January, 1900. I did not issue them till I had ascertained by personal trial that the enquiries on which they depend were feasible.

2. At the time the instructions were acted upon the numbers on relief-works had fallen very greatly owing to the commencement of harvesting and (in Jubbulpore) to a reduction in wages which followed a fall in prices. Between the beginning and the end of February the numbers on Public Works Department relief-works in the three districts fell by 52 per cent. Persons of the better classes were the first to leave, and, in consequence, although previous enquiries had given ground for the belief that fairly well-to-do cultivating families constituted from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the workers, the instructions have led to the rejection of a much smaller proportion—less than 10 per cent. in Saugor and Jubbulpore, and about 15 per cent. in Seoni. It is reported, however, that on some works people left at the commencement of the enquiries when they saw that their result would be against them, without waiting for an order of exclusion. The instructions will be felt in lessening the number of fairly well-to do persons who return to the works during the coming hot weather.

3. No reports have reached me of any difficulty in working the instructions or of complications arising out of them. Deputy Commissioners will watch their effect most carefully, and if there is any risk of their excluding the deserving they will be at once withdrawn.

Annexure to above.

Rules for the use of some discrimination in admitting to Public Works Department Famine Relief Works.

1. The object of these rules is to exclude from works families who are not at the end of their available resources, and who are not deterred from seeking admission by any "distance test." A consequential advantage will be that we shall be able to deal more leniently with relief-workers as a class, and can avoid the risk of driving away by hard tasks and low wages those who stand most in need of assistance.

2. The first step is to draw up a list of villages lying within 4 (or perhaps 5) miles off the relief-work or any part of it. The list will need revision as the work shifts its situation. Poor villages with infertile soil need not be included, unless they are grazing villages. A copy of the list should be given to the Officer-in-charge, and be posted conspicuously at the camp. No person should be admitted from these villages without an admission ticket.

3. The next step is to distribute tickets to present relief-workers belonging to these villages who need relief, and to refuse tickets to those who do not need relief. For this purpose the relief-workers belonging to these villages should be marshalled by villages and by families, and enquiries be made regarding each family with the assistance of the mukaddam, the patwari, and the patwari's cattle list. Tickets should be refused to families who possess more than two head of cattle other than plough cattle, or possess a cart, or who have sown five acres or more of rabi. The Deputy Commissioner may find it possible to add to this definition of the fairly well-to-do. A ticket should be given *to each member* of a family not excluded by this rule. The ticket need be nothing more than a slip of paper bearing the name of the village (in Hindi), a letter to signify whether the person is a man, woman, or child (M., W., W.C.), and the initials of the distributing officer. In a trial I made 950 persons were disposed of in three hours. I do not think that ordinarily more than 1,000 persons can be dealt with in a day, and the workers from 20 or 30 villages may occupy an officer for two or three days. Tickets should not be distributed by an officer of rank inferior to that of Charge Officer.

4. To provide for the admission in future of deserving persons belonging to the listed villages who are not on the work at the time of the enquiry, the Charge Officer or an officer of superior rank should visit the locality every eight or ten days, sending notice beforehand to the villages that persons wishing for admission should attend at a certain place and on a certain date. He will then go through them, and distribute tickets exactly as in dealing with relief-workers.

5. When the Officer-in-charge is a man of experience and judgment, authority to distribute tickets to new-comers may be given to him.

6. The difficulty will be to prevent non-ticket holders belonging to the listed villages from gaining admission by mis-stating their villages of residence. Mates should be made responsible for reporting any such cases, and I think that the services of the kotwars might be usefully enlisted, giving them a small fee in return. I believe, however, that when once the intention of Government is known, evasions of rule will be of rare occurrence.

No. 17.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. No. 775-F., dated Simla, the 21st April, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Craddock's letter, No. 825-F., dated 4th April 1900, regarding the special measures for regulating admission to relief works in the Chhattisgarh and Jubbulpore Divisions.

2. The ticket admission system in force on the departmental famine relief works in the Jubbulpore Division is reported to be working satisfactorily, and permission is asked to allow the system to continue in the Division unless and until you should find its abandonment necessary. The rules are considered by you to be well calculated to prevent money from being wasted on persons not in real need, and for the present at least to be unattended by any risk, as the condition and general health of the people in the Division is good and mortality low. You are, however, of opinion that the procedure could not now be safely extended to the more acutely distressed districts of the province, as inquiry into the circumstances of each individual of the vast hordes of people on the relief works, which the system necessitates, is at this stage out of the question. You have therefore no wish to extend the rules to other parts of the province.

3. The Government of India accept without hesitation your opinion on this latter point, as it is in entire accord with the conclusion arrived at by the Famine Commission of 1880, which pronounced against the practicability of working any rule of selection where, as in an Indian famine, millions of people have to be dealt with. In the Jubbulpore Division "scarcity" rather than true "famine" conditions appear to prevail, and the numbers of persons in need of relief are comparatively limited. The circumstances are thus special, and the considerations which condemn the principle of individual selection as a basis for any general system of famine relief lose in this case part of their weight. The experiment initiated by Mr. Fuller is valuable and instructive, and it may be continued as long as you think its continuance is expedient.

Report, Part 1, paragraph 110.

4. Turning to the rules themselves it is observed that they do not specially provide, as the Government of India in my letter of the 1st March suggested, for the immediate admission to the work by the officer-in-charge of persons whose physical condition indicates their need of relief. Unless the officer-in-charge is given the special powers mentioned in rule 5, an applicant for relief belonging to a "listed" village cannot be relieved at the work, however urgent and apparent his necessities may be, until an officer of superior rank next visits the locality. It may be said that the distressed person has the option of repairing to a more distant work, to which he will be admitted without question. But that work may be twenty or thirty miles away, and the option in such circumstances is of little practical use to an exhausted famine stricken sufferer. The Government of India consider that the rules should authorise the officer-in-charge to admit temporarily, pending the next visit of the superior officer, any applicant whose physical condition is unmistakeably bad.

5. To prevent any possible misunderstanding of the rules, it is further desirable that they should explicitly state that applicants for relief who are not residents of the listed villages are to be admitted to the work without question by the officer-in-charge. This intention is clearly explained in your letter and may be inferred from the text of the rules. But explicitness in this matter is desirable, as it is within memory that in the Bilaspur District in 1897 relief was refused to thousands by subordinates of the Public Works Department on a misreading of the admission rules, which antecedently would not have been considered possible.

No. 18.

Famine Circular from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, the Superintending Engineer, and the Superintendent of Works, No. F-49, dated Nagpur, the 7th May, 1900.

I am directed to address you with reference to the arrangements for famine-relief to be made during the rains. The instructions which follow, as well as the principles upon which they are based, have been determined at a Conference held at Pachmarhi on the 20th and 21st of April, at which all Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioner of Hoshangabad were present. They will require careful study by all officers whose duty it is to carry them out.

2. Large relief works under the Public Works Department have been up to the present, save in a few special localities, the mainstay of our system of relief; and the first and principal question before the Conference was whether the policy of placing our chief reliance on these major works was possible, or desirable, in the rains. To this question the Conference unanimously returned an emphatic negative.

3. In the first place, the reason for the maintenance of large relief-works at selected centres disappears when employment is available in the villages. In the second place, these large works at that season of the year fail adequately to check mortality. The area they serve is curtailed, while the exposure and discomforts inseparable from them, even under the best arrangements, tend to cause sickness and increased mortality. Furthermore, it is the general belief that even if the Public Works Department camps were all kept open during the rains, a large number of the relief-workers would certainly desert them. Hutting accommodation must be provided for all camps that are kept open; and, if these were maintained at their present number, the cost of such accommodation would be very heavy, and would be almost wholly wasted if the anticipated departure of workers took place. Added to these arguments against relief by large works in the rains is the consideration that the exaction of tasks is always difficult, and often impossible, and that the money spent, viewed in proportion to the insignificant work done, could be utilised far more efficiently on other forms of relief. Lastly, if reliance were to be placed on Public Works Department works mainly, these would have to be increased so as to take on all persons now engaged on village works. This would be practically impossible in Chhattisgarh, and difficult elsewhere.

4. While, however, it is clear that Public Works Department relief-works cannot be depended upon as the backbone of relief during the rains, it is equally certain that they cannot all be simultaneously closed at a given date. The last Famine Commission wrote (paragraph 243 of their Report) :—"We think that the policy of inducing people to leave the works before a famine is ended is a dangerous one, unless used with the greatest caution and supported by a large extension of gratuitous village relief. . . . The evidence we have taken is in favour of the view that, except perhaps in the case of very laxly and profusely managed relief-works, the cultivators and agricultural labourers leave works as soon as ever they see their way to getting a living off them, and often on the mere chance of so doing." Elsewhere in their report they condemn any attempt to drive people off the works, and prefer to see the works die a natural death by voluntary efflux of labourers.

5. The policy which the Officiating Chief Commissioner has decided to adopt is a policy of inducing the people to leave the works only by an assurance of support for their dependants. That policy is based on the known facts that in normal years the whole of the agricultural population now on relief finds support during the rains in agricultural operations, which support will be equally available during the coming monsoon period except in so far as (1) the wages to be earned will be less by the possible curtailment of the area sown, and (2) owing to high prices the wages earned will be insufficient to purchase

food for the whole of the labourer's family. In other words, during the rains Government will be required merely to supplement, and not to take the place of, private employment and wages. The mode of supplementing earnings will be by cooked food at kitchens to dependants and by expansion of the village cash relief lists.

6. In all districts where distress is comparatively slight, where a substantial amount of capital is still available to finance the cultivator, and agricultural operations are not likely to be curtailed to any material extent, the support of the labourer's dependants, extended if necessary hereafter to working members of his family according to rules to be presently explained, should suffice to relieve any distress which may occur. The reason for high mortality in the rains is usually not that the labourers cannot earn anything at all, but that he cannot earn enough to support all the members of his family. Either he feeds himself and leaves them hungry, or else he and they endeavour to subsist on a ration inadequate for the support of all. But in the most severely distressed districts, where capital will not be readily available, and employment will be specially scanty, it will probably be necessary to extend relief upon occasion to a certain proportion of the labourers themselves. Whenever it is necessary to give money doles to able-bodied persons other than children, the gift must be conditional on work done by the recipients under the supervision of the mukaddam.

7. These relief arrangements will enable the system of Public Works Department relief-works to be largely dispensed with ; but they will not enable them to be entirely superseded. There will be foreigners who have no home in the district and cannot be sent to their homes, a sprinkling of labourers and artizans who will not leave the works, and a certain number of waifs and strays, with no settled home, to be provided for. For these classes it will in most districts be necessary to keep a few Public Works Department charges open, for a short time at all events. These must be selected beforehand, and good hutting accommodation must be provided. As works become gradually deserted, the remnant of workers must be drafted to the selected works ; and the rest can be gradually closed. The approximate number of works which it may be advisable to keep open is indicated in the district notes which accompany this circular. The list is not, however, a final one, and is subject to modification, provided that the general principles of giving relief in villages are maintained.

8. The above being the principles of famine relief to be followed in the rains, the following instructions indicate the measures to be adopted to give effect to them :—

(1) Public Works.

I.—Large works under the Public Works Department will occupy only a subsidiary place in the relief programme for the rains.

II.—A limited number of works, chosen with reference both to the localities where work is most likely to be needed, to the utility of the work, and to the possibility of carrying it on in the rains, must be selected with the approval of the Commissioner, and hutting accommodation must be provided for as many workers (varying probably between 500 and 1,500) as may be determined in each case.

III.—No action will be taken to drive people from the works, but they will be induced to leave by promise of support to their dependants. As a first stage to the clearing of the works Officers-in-charge will arrange with the Circle Officers concerned to put all members of weakly gangs on the cash-relief list of their villages ; and on the 20th May all such persons who are willing to leave the works will be given one

month's gratuitous dole and despatched to their villages, a list of such persons and the doles given them being furnished to the Circle Officer of the village to which they belong.

IV.—Early in June it will be generally proclaimed by beat of drum throughout the camp that on the rains breaking Government wishes the people to return to their villages, and that if they do so arrangements will be made for the support of their dependants in their villages, and that all kitchens will be open to free admission.

V.—As soon as the rains break an exodus from the works may be expected. Those works on which the numbers decline below a certain limit, to be fixed by the Commissioner, will then be closed, the residue being drafted to the next nearest work, until in time only the selected camps, where efficient shelter has been provided, remain open. Charge and Circle Officers will visit the camps in their charges which are about to be closed and see that all pauper dependants, who will not be within reach of a kitchen at their homes, are put on the village relief list.

(2) Village Relief.

VI.—Village relief will be the backbone of the relief system to be followed in the rains. It will consist of:—

A.—Gratuitous relief to the non-working population, and to children below 14 years of age; and

B.—In certain cases, relief in return for work to the working population, consisting of able-bodied adults over 14 years of age.

(A) *Gratuitous Relief.*

Gratuitous Relief will consist of:—

(i.) Kitchens; and

(ii.) Cash doles.

Kitchens will be multiplied in all tracts where distress exists, and sufficient kitchens are not at present open. Admission will be free to anybody who will accept cooked food, and is not being otherwise relieved. Shelters from the rain must be run up at all kitchens.

Cash doles will only be necessary to those who cannot walk to a kitchen, or who, being reduced in condition, have never taken food at a kitchen and refuse to do so. Children within two miles of a kitchen should rarely be put on cash relief. This relief list will be styled list A, and the numbers on it will be returned as on gratuitous relief.

VII.—During May, the village relief list A may be gradually expanded under the directions of the Commissioner, so as to include weakly persons who have been struck off the lists previously in the expectation that they would attend kitchens, but who have refused to do so, as well as those sent from Public Works Department works to their homes under Rule III., care being taken that these latter are not paid twice over. The Charge Officer will also see that dependants of workers on village works within his charge who have refused to accept cooked food are brought on to the village relief list, and doles given them on the village works being closed.

(B) *Village Relief Works.*

In tracts severely distressed.

VIII.—In districts severely distressed, in which this procedure is enjoined by the Commissioner of the Division with the previous sanction of the Chief Commissioner, a special list termed the B list will be prepared. On it will be entered the names of the heads of the poorest labouring families in each village, with the number of members in each family, to whom relief will be given if the need arises. The list will show how many members of the family are receiving relief gratuitously or at kitchens.

Note (1).—No farm servant in permanent employ can be put on this list.
Note (2).—Persons who habitually labour for hire will not be excluded from the list of labourers merely because they happen to own a small plot of land.

IX.—The preparation of this list can be put in hand at once by patwaris and mukaddams under the supervision of Circle and Charge Officers.

X.—Distribution of relief to able-bodied persons on the B list will only be given for one month at a time, and only when, owing to partial cessation of agricultural operations, there is insufficient field work available, and can only be allowed on the sanction of the Commissioner, who shall at once inform the Chief Commissioner of the orders passed by him. An application by the Deputy Commissioner to the Commissioner for permission to distribute relief to able-bodied persons on the B list must contain an estimate of the numbers likely to be relieved.

XI.—Relief to able-bodied persons under these rules will be conditional on work which will be exacted from them by the mukaddams. The mukaddam must be ready to inform the Circle or Charge Officer what work persons on the B list have been put on; and the kind of work will be generally arranged with the mukaddams by Charge officers. It may consist of petty local improvements, as well as weeding or transplanting in fields of ryots unable themselves to employ labour; but Circle Officers must not be permitted to interfere with the discretion of the mukaddam.

In tracts not severely distressed.

XII—In districts not severely distressed, it will not be necessary to prepare formal B lists beforehand; but if, later on, in the rains, distress is found to increase, discretion must be given to Charge Officers to expand the gratuitous list by the addition to them of dependants of labourers without special reference to their capacity for work. But persons added on in this manner will be distinctively marked on the list, and the mukaddams will be required to exact work from them.

9. The twelve rules embodied in the preceding paragraph convey the general instructions to be observed; but, owing to the great differences in local circumstances, it is impossible to frame instructions in sufficient detail applicable to all periods of the season or to all localities. Subsidiary instructions will, therefore, be necessary, which Commissioners have discretion to issue, provided that they do not conflict with the spirit of the rules, and are reported for the Chief Commissioner's approval. For instance, in regard to the B list, selections may prove difficult, and it may be necessary to limit the numbers on this form of relief to a certain percentage, on the basis that if a certain proportion of labourers are assisted by Goverment, the rest will find work. It may also be found advisable to prescribe limitations as to the total amount of relief which

may be given to a single family. The relief is intended to supplement, not to take the place of, what the family may earn. These are all matters on which it is impossible to lay down strict rules at this juncture, but in respect of which the Officiating Chief Commissioner will be glad to consider any suggestions which local officers may have to make when the situation is further developed.

10. It is of the greatest importance that no time should be lost in making the arrangements whereby the system of relief may be changed from camps to villages without a hiatus of insufficient relief. The actual workers in the camps will probably have a small saving, and in the first burst of sowing operations will find sufficient employment; but their dependants have to be provided for. These have hitherto been accepting cooked food at the camp kitchens, and should continue to receive this form of relief in their homes. It would be quite unnecessary to put them on the village relief list if there are kitchens within reach. It will, therefore, be necessary in those tracts in which kitchens have not been widely extended, and where distress is apprehended, to open kitchens in advance of the tide of returning dependants. They are the ultimate means of saving life, if the distressed person has failed to attract the notice of the Circle Relief Officer.

11. There are certain tracts in the Province, the wilder zamindaris and the hilly regions of the Satpura districts, in which, owing to the great distance between villages, kitchen-relief cannot be managed. In some local areas of this description, distribution of dry grain at depôts has taken the place of cooked food. This plan may be necessary in a few local areas, but it can never be worked side by side with kitchen-relief, and it still requires cash doles paid in the villages to the infirm who are unable to come to the depôt. Any tracts in which resort to distribution of dry grain is considered to be necessary on any ground should be distinctly specified by Commissioners, and the necessity for the system, as well as the plan on which it is to be carritd out, should be clearly explained.

12. In conclusion I am to forward some district notes showing in general terms the plan of relief in each district which seems to be *primâ facie* necessary. It is, of course, subject to modification, but may be of general use.

Enclosure in No. 18.

Note appended to Famine Circular No. F-49, dated the 7th May, 1900, regarding arrangements in the rains.

The following district notes indicate generally the views of the Commissioners as expressed at the conference. Under the estimates it is probable that the number of Public Works Department camps will be reduced from 180 to about 50, with further gradual reduction as the season advances.

2. The estimates of the number of kitchens required to serve each district are based on the calculation that a kitchen will serve effectually a radius of three miles or 27 square miles. The area under Government forest is deducted from the total area of the district. Some districts show already more kitchens than this number, but a very slight reduction in the radius adds greatly to the number of kitchens. For instance, if a district of 2,700 square miles requires 100 kitchens for a three-mile radius, it will require 225 for a two-mile radius.

3. As regards the numbers likely to return to the works after the rains break, it will be observed that in certain districts, *e.g.*, Raipur, Bilaspur, Betul, Balaghat, and to a small extent in Nimar and Bhandara, the percentage of population on relief exceeds the percentage of labourers. In such districts the number of cultivators on works must be very large, and the numbers when the rains break should drop very rapidly.

DISTRICT NOTES.

SAUGOR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present
8·1	16·1	24·2	9·85	6·63

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 120

Number of kitchens at present open 45

Distress of a severe character will probably be confined to the two northern tahsils of Khurai and Banda. Commissioner thinks that two Public Works Department works in the rains will suffice, and that kitchens (which will be considerably increased) and a liberal gratuitous village relief list, expanded if necessary under Rule XII., will meet the needs of the district.

DAMOH.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
8·1	8·2	16·3	18·32	2.31

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 75

Number of kitchens at present open 32

Distress in this district is slight, no Public Works Department work has been opened and none will be required. Kitchens must be increased, but no B list will be necessary.

JUBBULPORE.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
11·7	10·0	21·7	12·95	7·24

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 126

Number of kitchens at present open 70

The Commissioner thinks that two Public Works Department works, preferably metal-breaking, will suffice for the rains in this district, for a time at all events. It will be necessary to expand gratuitous relief and to increase the number of kitchens. But he does not anticipate that a B list will prove necessary. Distress will practically be confined to the non-haveli tracts.

MANDLA.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
9·7	6·9	15·16	10·8	1·00

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 86

Number of kitchens at present open 37

There is only one Public Works Department work in this district, and none will be required in the rains. Kitchens will be difficult to manage in remote villages, and in forest areas; and gratuitous and village work relief must be the main stand by. List B will therefore probably be necessary in order to deal with petty cultivators who also fall in the category of labourers. Kitchens will however be expanded as far as possible.

SEONI.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
7·0	10·9	17·9	5·23	12·60

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 86

Number of kitchens at present open 64

Two Public Works Department works will probably be maintained in the Seoni Tahsil and possibly one in Lakhnadon. As far as practicable the railway camps will be selected. There is little distress in the haveli, and if a B list is required it will be in the Korai, Ugli, and Barghat tracts, where rice is most important. Kitchen relief must be extended.

NARSINGHPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
6·8	17·0	23·8	15·96	1·68

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 60

Number of kitchens at present open 38

The district is very slightly distressed; the kitchen attendance is small. No Public Works Department works will be required, and no B list will be necessary. In the hilly portion of the district, gratuitous relief, both cash doles and kitchens, will be extended. In the plains portion a few test kitchens should be established; they can be very rapidly extended there if distress is found to increase.

HOSHANGABAD.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
6·1	15.1	21·2	13·80	13·22

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 102
Number of kitchens at present open 26

Two Public Works Department camps during the rains will certainly be necessary for foreigners who do not return, and cannot be returned, to their homes. Two more will probably be required for local workers. Kitchens will have to be greatly expanded all over the district, and in two tahsils, Harda and Hoshangabad, a B list will be necessary.

NIMAR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
14·7	4·0	18·7	1·19	19·01

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 77
Number of kitchens at present open 70

The inclusion of the Harsud Tahsil and opening of ryotwari villages has added to the labourer and labouring-cultivator classes since the census. Kitchens may still be increased, and in view of the high mortality in the district, this kind of relief should not be stinted.

The two works on the Khandwa-Akola Railway, one at Manjrod and one at Jaswari, must be kept open, principally for foreigners. It may be necessary to keep one work in the Harsud Tahsil, though land reclamation by persons on the B list will probably suffice for relief of the able-bodied. It is most important in the ryotwari tracts to keep the ryots to the villages.

Burhanpur can probably be served by kitchen and town relief; but, if necessary, a Public Works Department work, to which admission will be by ticket, can be kept open sufficiently near Burhanpur to allow hutting to be dispensed with.

A B list will only be necessary in the Harsud tahsil, and possibly in the ryotwari areas elsewhere in the district.

BETUL.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
12·1	6·2	18·3	8·07	34·36

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 95
Number of kitchens at present open 123

The district is poor, and very deeply distressed. It will probably be necessary to keep three Public Works Department works open along the Nagpur-Itarsi Road, at first at all events. Kitchens have already been greatly extended, their distribution has only to be considered. B lists will be necessary. The possibility of distributing relief to those on the A and B lists in jungly tracts by means of existing depôts must be considered, but dry-grain doles and kitchens cannot be kept going side by side, and arrangements for infirms unable to walk to a kitchen or depôt must be made.

Chhindwara.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
15·9	2·7	17·16	4·82	18·54

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 145

Number of kitchens at present open 82

Distress is less severe than in Betul. Commissioner considers that three to four works in the Chhindwara tahsil will probably be necessary, especially in areas which chiefly produce rabi crops, where there will be less field labour available. The jagirs and the Ambara and Khamarpani tracts may be served by a depôt system like that in force in Betul. Kitchens may be extended wherever possible. In the Sausar tahsil arrangements under Rule XII, if required should meet necessities in all open tracts.

Wardha.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the present.
29·6	5·6	34·12	2·11	16·75

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 84

Number of kitchens at present open 63

Distress is at present severe in this district; but agricultural work in the rains will probably provide for the able-bodied. Three public works may be maintained for a time, preferably ballast-breaking for the railway. All that is believed necessary is relief to labourers by supporting their dependants by kitchens and cash doles; and Rule XII. should meet all requirements. Kitchens will need extension.

Nagpur.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
17.3	4·7	21·10	2·40	5·96

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 122

Number of kitchens at present open 26

It is not expected that any Public Works Department relief-work will be required here, as the most distressed part of the district (Dongartal) is not very populous and is served by village works, but a B list may prove necessary in this tract.

Kitchens will have to be extended everywhere for the dependants of labourers and distressed artizans, as a test of distress as well as a means of relief. With the possible exception of the Dongartal tract, Rule XII should meet all requirements.

CHANDA.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
17·8	3·7	20·15	1·5	15·65

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 272

Number of kitchens at present open 54

The rice tracts of this district are severely distressed, and the distances and wildness of the zamindari areas make relief arrangements difficult. Three Public Works Department works only should be maintained, viz., Chanda, Mul and Brahmapuri. Kitchens must be very largely extended, B lists framed and relief given liberally to dependants of the labouring classes.

BHANDARA.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
14·9	2·1	16·10	5·76	16·95

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 127

Number of kitchens at present open 188

It is expected that one work at Gondia, and two more, to be selected after local consultation, should suffice as Public Works Department relief camps. Kitchens have already been widely extended, but their distribution must be examined. B lists will be necessary, but exception may be made in a few tracts where distress is less severe.

BALAGHAT.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
12 7	2·6	14·13	18·15	29·69

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 82

Number of kitchens at present open 133

Kitchen relief has been well extended. Commissioner think that four camps may be needed in the rains, probably two along the railway, one at Katangi.

a very distressed tract, and one at Waraseoni. But these may very likely be susceptible of reduction.

List B will be necessary here; and arrangements for the Behir tahsil will require special consideration.

RAIPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
6·2	4·7	10·9	6·77	36·02

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 383

Number of kitchens at present open 612

There are nearly 50 Public Works Department works open, and over 200,000 people on village works. A very large number of the people on these works must be cultivators (compare percentage on relief with percentage of labourers). These will all return to their villages for agriculture. B lists will be necessary. Kitchens appear to be sufficient. It is estimated that 10 Public Works Department camps will have to be maintained, but the estimate seems high.

BILASPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
5·2	6·5	11·7	12·81	22·15

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 285

Number of kitchens at present open 321

It will probably be possible to reduce the number of works to six. B lists will be required, with plenty of kitchens.

SAMBALPUR.

Percentage on Total Population.

Field Labourers.	General Labourers.	Total.	Maximum on Relief in last Famine.	Maximum on Relief up to the Present.
·05	10·9	10·14	·35	4·17

Total number of kitchens required to serve the entire district ... 168

Number of kitchens at present open 89

It is thought that no large work will be necessary. Kitchens will meet most of such distress as continues. In a few tracts village relief lists may be expanded under Rule XII.

No. 19.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 1130. F, dated Simla, the 1st June, 1900.

The Governor General in Council has read with interest Famine Circular No. 49.F., dated 7th May, 1900, which you have caused to be issued to divisional and district officers with reference to the arrangements for famine relief to be made during the rains.

2. His Excellency in Council has no doubt that in a province like the Central Provinces with a heavy rainfall, great distances, and imperfect communications, major relief works cannot be made the main basis of relief during the rains. The prosecution of such works during the rainy season is difficult in any part of India, and in the famine of 1897 this method of relief had everywhere to be accompanied with a considerable expansion of village and kitchen relief, and with considerable grants of money in the form of loans or gifts to the cultivating classes, to enable them to resume their home occupations and to give employment in the villages to the labouring and menial classes. In the Central Provinces in 1897 the rainy season was marked in many districts by a deplorable increase of malarial diseases and mortality, and experience clearly proved that in such circumstances large public works were kept open with difficulty and failed to give suitable relief to the classes which most required it.

3. The scheme of relief described in your circular is framed on very generous lines, and in a famine of less intensity would unquestionably be open to the charge that it erred on the side of excessive liberality. It practically amounts to the offer of cooked food throughout the distressed area to all comers, irrespective of their bodily condition or material circumstances, and to the establishment of kitchens in such numbers as to bring this offer within easy reach of nearly every village. It may be doubted whether in any previous famine relief has been made so easy and universal, or so free from any test of want other than the test imposed by the scruples of the higher classes or castes to eat cooked food. Such scruples appear to be less strong in the Central Provinces than elsewhere, and they are known to diminish or disappear altogether under the force of circumstances.

It is further provided that persons in weakly condition who refuse to accept cooked food are to be brought on the gratuitous cash relief list of the village, and that able-bodied labourers may similarly be brought on the cash relief list of their village on the condition that they perform any work which the headman of the village may prescribe. Such work, it is stated, may include weeding or transplating in the fields of the headman or of the other ryots of the village if they are unable themselves to employ labour. As the discretion of the headman in the matter of prescribing work is not to be questioned by the circle officer, this particular condition may be considered elastic.

4. This scheme of relief has been framed by you in concert with the most experienced relief officers of the province, and is considered to be the best, if not the only, way of bringing the great mass of the labouring classes back to their villages and their usual occupations, without exceptional mortality or privations at the close of a famine of unprecedented severity. In these circumstances the Governor General in Council refrains from dwelling on the possible objections which might be taken to it on various grounds. He is willing that it should be fairly and fully tried, recognising that the problem of famine relief during the rainy season is one of very great difficulty, and that in the Central Provinces in 1897 it was not satisfactorily solved by the usual methods. But he trusts that vigilance will be exercised in seeing that the liberality of the State is not abused, that the scheme will be tightened up if abuses should become general, and that relief under its provisions will not be maintained, especially in the case of the able-bodied, longer than is necessary for the avoidance of mortality. The particular feature of the scheme which is open to the greatest abuse is that enabling the village headmen to carry out the cultivation of their own fields and

that of their friends by State paid labour. Unless very close check in the manner suggested in paragraph 9 of your circular is kept on the numbers so employed, the cost of such relief may outrun all bounds, and substantial cultivators, who have received large sums of money for cultivation expenses from the State and the Charitable Relief Fund, will escape their natural obligations. Between 50 and 60 lakhs of rupees are being distributed for this purpose in the Central Provinces, and the addition of so much capital to the remaining resources of the cultivators should create a substantial fund for the employment of field labour during the coming rains. The Governor General in Council accepts the opinion of yourself and your officers that this fund, though substantial, is in itself insufficient this year for the full employment of the labouring classes, and will require to be supplemented in the manner proposed. But he must ask that the B lists be very closely regulated and kept within proper limits, that they be disallowed altogether by the district officer in villages which he considers can pay for their own labourers, and that the number of labourers placed in each district on the B lists be shown in a separate column in the weekly detailed statement of relief operations compiled for the province.

No. 20.

*Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S. Chief Secretary to the Chief Commisioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F.*1604, *dated Pachmarhi, the* 18*th June*, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1130.F., dated the 1st June, conveying the observations and orders of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council upon the programme of relief operations during the rains, contained in this Administration's Famine Circular No. F.49 of the 7th ultimo. I am to express the thanks of the Officiating Chief Commissioner for the permission accorded to him to carry out relief administration on the undoubtedly liberal lines provided in the Circular.

2. The general caution enjoined by your letter and the instructions contained in the closing paragraph will be strictly and loyally observed, and I am to forward for the information of the Government of India copy of a letter (No. F.1603, of to-day's date) which is issuing to all Commissioners in regard to the regulation of the B lists. The necessity for caution had been insisted on at the Conference which preceded the issue of the Circular ; but the Officiating Chief Commissioner has thought it well to call special attention to it now.

3. I am to represent, however, one or two matters in which the orders contained in Famine Circular No. 49 have been construed by the Government of India to imply more than was intended. Although it was laid down in Rule XI. (paragraph 8 of the Circular) that Circle Officers were not to interfere with the discretion of the headman in regard to the work taken from labourers on the B list, it was not intended to give the headmen an absolutely free hand. The nature of the work to be taken was to be settled by the Charge Officer. Though it may occasionally happen that B list labourers are put to weed the headman's fields, it is not contemplated by the rules that this should be the general practice. The fields to be weeded are those of cultivators unable to employ labour, and the village headman will seldom or never fall within this category.

4. I am further to submit, with reference to another remark made in paragraph 4 of your letter, that takavi and charitable grants have not been given to substantial cultivators. The takavi advances have generally been made to cultivators who can command but little credit, and grants from the Charitable Fund have been confined to tenants who are poorer even than the recipients of takavi. In order also to make these sums go as far as possible individual loans and grants have been kept small, and the recipients will not have much to spare for wages to labourers.

5. As desired by the Government of India the number on the B lists will duly be shown in a separate column in all returns. Orders have issued which will secure this.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Circular Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners of Divisions, Central Provinces, No. F.–1603, dated Pachmarhi, the 18th June, 1900.

With reference to paragraph 9 of Famine Circular No. 49 enjoining the issue of subsidiary instructions by Commissioners for the purpose of carrying out the orders of that Circular, I am directed to impress upon you the necessity for exercising special caution in regard to the preparation of the B lists, and the distribution of relief to persons entered on these lists.

2. In particular it is necessary to limit the number of labourers upon these lists, since all labourers will not be unable to find employment. Where relief-works are kept open according to the set programmes, no persons should be entered on the B lists within a certain radius of such relief works, otherwise such persons might after receiving the dole present themselves at the relief works and thus obtain double relief. Again such lists should be dispensed with, or curtailed to the narrowest limits in all villages in which the villagers are sufficiently well off as a body to pay for their own labour. In such cases it must be remembered that dependants will under the Circular still be eligible to receive support. The distribution of relief to those on the B lists should also be very closely supervised and watched, so that abuses which may come to light may be promptly checked. Persons entered on these lists should not be led to anticipate as a matter of certainty that they will receive relief; for it is from the B list as originally framed that selections will be made of those labourers who have, as a matter of fact, failed to obtain employment, who are unlikely to resort to kitchens, and who actually appear to be in want.

3. Rule XI (paragraph 8 of the Circular) allows a considerable discretion to the village headman to decide upon the work to be taken from labourers on the B list, and it is stated that Circle Officers must not be permitted to interfere with that discretion. This discretion is intended to prevent the risk of ill-advised interference by Circle Officers of small experience or lacking in tact; but it is also clearly provided that the kind of work must be generally arranged with Mukaddams by Charge Officers. The kind of work to be done should as far as possible be work which, owing to want of funds, could not have been carried out but for the help given by Government; and if a Circle Officer finds that the Mukaddam is generally employing these State-paid labourers on work which he or others could easily afford to pay for, it will be that officer's duty to bring the facts to the notice of the Charge Officer,. All these points, together with any other safeguards which may, without prejudice to the success of relief, occur to you to be advisable, should be made clear in the subsidiary instructions which you issue under paragraph 9 of the Circular.

4. This letter does not issue as an ordinary Famine Circular, because the circumstances of different districts differ so much that it is desirable that the preparation and regulation of B lists should be left in the first instance to the initiative and control of Commissioners. General orders which would filter down to Charge and Circle Officers might lead to excessive or insufficient liberality, as the case might be, in different localities. The Officiating Chief Commissioner desires here rather to indicate and enforce the responsibility of Commissioners for the issue of necessary instructions.

No. 21.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, Raipur, No. F. 1805, *dated Nagpur, the* 11*th July*, 1900.

I am directed to address you with reference to the various matters relating to famine relief discussed with yourself and the local officers on the occasion of the Officiating Chief Commissioner's recent visit to the districts of your Division.

I.—Public Works Department works.

2. Not much progress has as yet been made in reducing the number of Public Works Department charges in the districts of Raipur and Bilaspur, and there is reason to suppose that, as already reported by yourself, the Public Works Department works are still too attractive. The measures to be adopted in order to encourage the people to return to their homes, without actually refusing this form of relief to those at present resorting to it, were fully discussed, and the following course of action met with general approval :—

(i.) To exercise greater strictness in the matter of tasks, which had been somewhat relaxed during the period of greatest heat.

(ii.) To abolish the rest-day wage. This had, in fact, already been done, except in the Janjgir tahsil of Bilaspur, where it will now be carried out.

(iii.) To double up adjacent charges and draft the workers.

(iv.) To close all works to new admissions except in the case of the charges selected for maintenance during the rains, and a few others which the Deputy Commissioner may select.

(v.) To refuse admission to applicants at Public Works Department kitchens not being dependants of workers in the camp, except in the case of persons requiring hospital relief, who could not with safety be directed to the nearest Civil kitchen.

3. These were the measures advocated which were, or could be made, applicable to both districts. In Bilaspur it was also determined to lower the wage basis so far as the 25 per cent. rule admitted. In Raipur there was no scope for further action under this rule. The Deputy Commissioner urged the adoption on Public Works Department works of the lower scale of wages paid at Village Works, but it was considered that this was a measure to be held in reserve, and one which it was hardly safe to resort to at the present juncture.

4. It was also determined to confine admissions to open camps, in the case of residents of villages within a five-miles radius of the work, to persons certified by the Charge Officer, or under his orders, to be fit recipients for relief. In this connection I am to forward a copy of the rules relating to admission by ticket which were introduced into the Jubbulpore Division. These rules related to a different season of the year and may require some modification, but they will probably be of use to you as a general guide. You will observe that the grant or refusal of tickets is reserved to Charge Officers, and Mr. Fraser thinks that this is the wisest course to follow, even though it causes some delay. Practically it may be said that the persons who would be allowed tickets would be the persons who would otherwise be entered on the B list, but it is important to remember that if small cultivators are refused B list relief on the ground that they can go to the work, their chances of cultivating their land will be very small.

5. Another measure which was approved in Raipur, was the handing over of relief workers to mukaddams of their villages who apply for labour for weeding and guarantee employment and wages to the labourers. It was

not an uncommon complaint in the last famine by malguzars that they could not secure labourers for weeding. The complaint, in many cases, was found to be due to the desire of the malguzars to underpay agricultural labour ; but, if the mukaddam is a trustworthy man, and can be relied upon to pay reasonable wages, there is no risk in handing over to him labourers resident in his village. The extent to which resort is successfully made to this expedient, should be noticed in the weekly and monthly reports. There is, of course, no reason why this same procedure should not be followed in Bilaspur also.

II.—Kitchens.

6. It was brought to notice that able-bodied persons are now resorting to kitchens in increasing numbers. But the general opinion, in which Mr. Fraser concurs, was that the general orders contained in Famine Circular No. 49 should be adhered to for the present. If the able-bodied man is excluded, and is unable to find work, he will before long cease to be able-bodied, and will be unable to do agricultural work when it does become available. For the present, therefore, admission to kitchens must continue free. The position can be reviewed later on when it is seen how far persons for whom work in the field is really available, prefer idleness and a meal at the kitchen. The feasibility of exacting some work on the analogy of B list relief from able-bodied persons attending kitchens is a matter for local experiment and report. The issue of general orders must await further experience of the working of the free admission rules. The system of branch kitchens started by Captain Hardinge, Charge Officer of Drug, appears to be very successful. The officiating Chief Commissioner would be glad of a note from that officer describing in detail the sytem on which they are worked, and the advantages gained thereby.

III.—B list relief.

7. The B lists have not yet been completed in Raipur, but are, it is understood, ready in Bilaspur, though no distribution has yet been sanctioned. It was represented that in the Janjgir tahsil it is possible to keep a certain number of Village Works open in the rains ; and it was suggested that in such cases the distribution of B list relief would be unnecessary. Village Works are, however, carried out by piecework, and even in the most favourable soils it would not always be possible to ensure regularity of employment and wages. It is doubtful, therefore, whether a village worker having no means of subsistence, could earn enough to maintain himself upon these works. The following rule was accordingly adopted :—

> " If in any charge there are villages in which minor village works are feasible during the rains, such works may be opened from time to time as the weather permits. On these works may be employed—
>
> (i) People on the B list who have actually received a dole.
>
> (ii) Applicants to be paid by the day on the ordinary village-work system, such persons being admitted by the mukaddam in accordance with the orders of the Charge Officer."

In villages where such works are feasible the B list will be restricted, and it may even be dispensed with in any village where the work available is likely to afford regular employment. But care will be necessary that small cultivators labouring in their own fields do not suffer. So far as present information goes, such persons are likely to accept food at kitchens if in real want, but their case must not be overlooked. This rule was decided upon at the conference at Bilaspur, but there is no reason why it should not be applied to any charge in Raipur where the character of the country admits of such village works being carried on in the rain.

The Sambalpur District.

8. I am now to turn to the Sambalpur District, where the circumstances differ considerably from those of the other two districts of your Division. There are at present two Public Works Department works in Sambalpur—at Dabra in the Chandarpur Zamindari, and at Barpali in the Bargarh tahsil. Two more works

are under Civil Officers—the tank work at Sanimal, the road work at Padampur. The Dabra work will for the present remain open ; it seems the most distressed tract in the district, and the 9-seer rate may also be maintained there so long as prices warrant this. The workers at Barpali and Padampur should be drafted to the Sanimal tank, to be re-drafted to those works when that tank is completed. The double drafting will clear all these works of all those persons who can obtain employment in their villages, and it is not unlikely that it will be possible to close all these works as the season advances.

9. No B list relief has been sanctioned in this district, and village relief (A list) is confined to the country round Dabra. The main reliance, therefore, for the relief of the really distressed will be the kitchens, to which the lower classes in this district are very ready to resort. Admission to the kitchens should be quite free.

10. Mortality has risen considerably in this district during the past few months, and it did not appear that Charge Officers had made due inquiry into its causes. The Officiating Chief Commissioner pointed out how detailed inquiry in selected localities might be of the greatest use in enabling Charge Officers to discover the chief causes of mortality and so perhaps to adopt means of counteracting them. Cholera, both reported and not reported, has, no doubt, been the main cause of the increase, but the flight of people from their villages and the enforced isolation by the Gaontias of their villagers in such cases has served to deprive the inhabitants of the benefits of kitchen relief. It will require the most careful attention on the part of the Charge Officers to see that kitchen relief is within the reach of all in the distressed tracts of the district. The Raipur system of branch kitchens above referred to may be useful in this connection.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., I.C.S., C.I.E., Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division, to the Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 2672, dated Jubbulpore, the 18th March, 1900.

I have the honour to submit for the information of the Chief Commissioner a set of instructions which I issued last month to the Deputy Commissioners of Saugor, Jubbulpore and Seoni—the only districts in which Public Works Department relief charges have been opened in this Division—under the authority given me by paragraph 4 of your letter No. F. 173, dated the 22nd January, 1900. I did not issue them till I had ascertained by personal trial that the enquiries on which they depend were feasible.

2. At the time the instructions were acted upon the numbers on relief-works had fallen very greatly owing to the commencement of harvesting and (in Jubbulpore) to a reduction in wages which followed a fall in prices. Between the beginning and the end of February, the numbers on Public Works Department relief-works in the three districts fell by 52 per cent. Persons of the better classes were the first to leave, and in consequence, although previous enquiries had given ground for the belief that fairly well-to-do cultivating families constituted from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the workers, the instructions have led to the rejection of a much smaller proportion—less than 10 per cent. in Saugor and Jubbulpore, and about 15 per cent. in Seoni. It is reported, however, that on some works people left at the commencement of enquiries when they saw that their result would be against them, without waiting for an order of exclusion. The instructions will be felt in lessening the numbers of fairly well-to-do persons who return to the works during the coming hot weather.

3. No reports have reached me of any difficulty in working the instructions or of complications arising out of them. Deputy Commissioners will watch their effect most carefully, and if their is any risk of their excluding the deserving they will be at once withdrawn.

Annexure.

Rules for the use of some discrimination in admitting to Public Works Department Famine Relief Works.

1. The object of these rules is to exclude from works families who are not at the end of their available resources and who are not deterred from seeking admission by any "distance test." A consequential advantage will be that we shall be able to deal more leniently with relief-workers as a class and can avoid the risk of driving away by hard tasks and low wages those who stand most in need of assistance.

2. The first step is to draw up a list of villages lying within 4 (or perhaps 5) miles off the relief works or any part of it. The list will need revision as the work shifts its situation. Poor villages with infertile soil need not be included, unless they are grazing villages. A copy of the list should be given to the Officer-in-charge and be posted conspicuously at the camp. No person should be admitted from these villages without an admission ticket.

3. The next step is to distribute tickets to present relief-workers belonging to these villages who need relief, and to refuse tickets to those who do not need relief. For this purpose the relief-workers belonging to these villages should be marshalled by villages and by families, and enquiries be made regarding each family with the assistance of the mukaddam, the patwari and the patwari's cattle list. Tickets should be refused to families who possess more than two head of cattle, other than plough-cattle, or possess a cart or who have sown 5 acres or more of rabi. The Deputy Commissioner may find it possible to add to this definition of the fairly well-to-do. A ticket should be given to each member of a family not excluded by this rule. The ticket need be nothing more than a slip of paper bearing the name of the village (in Hindi), a letter to signify whether the person is a man, woman or child (M., W., W. C.) and the initials of the distributing officer. In a trial I made, 950 persons were disposed of in three hours. I do not think that ordinarily more than 1,000 persons can be dealt with in a day, and the workers from 20 or 30 villages may occupy an officer for two or three days. Tickets should not be distributed by an officer of rank inferior to that of Charge Officer.

4. To provide for the admission in future of deserving persons belonging to the listed villages who are not on the work at the time of the enquiry, the Charge Officer or an officer of superior rank should visit the locality every 8 or 10 days, sending notice beforehand to the villages that persons wishing for admission should attend at a certain place and on a certain date. He will then go through them and distribute tickets exactly as in dealing with relief-workers.

5. When the Officer-in-charge is a man of experience and judgment, authority to distribute tickets to new-comers may be given to him.

6. The difficulty will be to prevent non-ticket holders belonging to the listed villages from gaining admission by mis-stating their villages of residence. Mates should be made responsible for reporting any such cases, and I think that the services of the kotwars might be usefully enlisted, giving them a small fee in return. I believe, however, that when once the intention of Government is known, evasions of rule will be of rare occurrence.

No. 22.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Commissioner, Nagpur Division, No. F. 1965, *dated Nagpur the 3rd August,* 1900.

I am directed to address you with reference to the various famine matters which came under discussion with yourself and the local officers on the occasion of the Officiating Chief Commissioner's recent visit to the districts of your Division.

A.—Closing of Public Works Department Works.

2. The progress made in getting the people off large Public Works Department Works in Chanda had not, up to the time of the Chief Commissioner's visit, been very great. A scheme for doubling up the various charges and drafting labourers so as to impose a better distance-test was then and there drawn up in consultation with the Superintendent of Works. The necessary instructions have already been issued by that officer, and it is unnecessary to repeat the details here. The camps of Armori and Brahmapuri, which have always been unduly popular, require to be broken up by drafting. The present wage-basis of 9 seers against an actual price of $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers is high enough; but it will be unnecessary for the present to give a minimum wage on rainy days. It will be expedient to close to fresh admissions all works except the regular monsoon camps, and one or two others which the Deputy Commissioner may select. If the monsoon camps show signs of being overcrowded by persons from the immediate neighbourhood, while agricultural employment is readily available, some selection may prove advisable on the system indicated for trial under similar circumstances in Chhattisgarh.

3. In Wardha the Kutki camp is being absorbed into Hinganghat. Elikeli should now be amalgamated with Selu, and Rohna and Telegaon should be joined up with Khupgaon, at which place a monsoon camp can be maintained. About a fortnight later it should be found possible to close Neri and Pulgaon. In every case arrangements must be made for drafting the labourers. Those really in need of employment will move on to the permanent camps, the rest returning to their villages directly the distance-test comes into operation. It is understood that Beraris, as well as some residents of Bhandara and Balaghat, are to be found in the camps near the Berar border. These should all be returned to their homes.

4. In Bhandara there are still nine camps open, and now that transplantation and weeding will soon give general employment, the amalgamation should proceed as follows:—

(1) Saongi to Sakoli.
(2) Khairlanji to Biharia.
(3) Dongri to Mohari.
(4) Sakoli to Lakhni.
(5) Mohari to Biharia.

The four camps ultimately remaining will thus be Biharia, Lakhni, Ambora, and Adyar. The first three of these moves should be carried out quickly; the last two depend on them, and must follow as soon as circumstances permit. Shelter will have to be provided at Lakhni, which is now for the first time added to the list of permanent camps.

5. In Balaghat the numbers in the camps are decreasing considerably; four camps—Lamta, Kirnapur, Waraseoni, and Katangi—were fixed on as monsoon camps. Besides these, Piparia and Dhapewara are still open. The former, which is the only camp in the Behir Tahsil, and in which plenty of useful work is available, may be kept open for some time longer, shelter being provided; but the latter should be closed as soon as possible. The small numbers now on it will be provided for by the Deputy Commissioner in the village-relief arrangements.

6. In Nagpur, the Telinkheri camp has been closed, and the Juma Talao and Ambajheri works are about to follow. A new camp at Borgaon has been established, which will provide for labourers of the city unable to find employment. The Thana camp has been shifted to Panchgaon, and the Bhiwapur camp should be closed as soon as possible. The Wakori camp will remain open so long as the work available lasts; and it is desirable that the road from Patansaongi to Khapa should be completed.

7. The progress actually attained up to the last week for which detailed returns are available may be seen from the following statement :—

District.	Week ending June 2nd.		Week ending July 21st.	
	No. of Camps.	Workers and Dependants.	No. of Camps.	Workers and Dependants.
Wardha	10	59,333	10	36,728
Nagpur	7	27,520	5	10,453
Chanda	16	68,325	16	52,069
Bhandara	11	56,878	11	39,119
Balaghat	9	47,420	7	15,564
Total	53	259,476	49	153,933

8. From the above figures it will be seen that the numbers on Public Works Department relief works have decreased by 105,543, of whom 14,507 represent dependants. During the same period of seven weeks the numbers employed on Village Works have fallen from 57,246 to 14,335, a decrease of 42,911. This has added altogether 148,454 to the number of those hitherto on work relief who have to be provided for in their villages, whether by private employment or on village relief.

B.—Relief in Villages.

9. During the same period the numbers in receipt of relief in their villages have increased as follows :—

District.	Week ending June 2nd.			Week ending July 21st.			Increase.
	Kitchens.	Cash.	Total.	Kitchens.	Cash.	Total.	
Wardha ...	14,666	3,303	17,969	61,298	5,434	66,732	48,763
Nagpur ...	8,798	1,771	10,569	40,910	6,642	47,552	36,983
Chanda ...	42,786	16,332	59,118	122,211	21,890	144,101	84,983
Bhandara ...	30,238	11,584	41,822	60,759	22,685	83,444	41,622
Balaghat ...	29,435	12,507	41,942	68,993	14,510	83,503	41,561
Total ...	125,923	45,497	171,420	354,171	71,161	425,332	253,912

The increase on gratuitous relief has thus more than counter-balanced the falling-off of workers, and it is apparent, therefore, that a number of people (some 100,000 in the whole division) have now come on to relief for the first time. Enquiries made from Charge Officers show that these chiefly consist of petty cultivators and artizans who have exhausted their resources. Most of the new applicants for relief have been accommodated at the kitchens. But it has been found necessary to increase the number of recipients of the village cash-dole (A list) in the case of classes who still hold out against the acceptance of cooked food. This reluctance appears to have very largely broken down, but it appears to be more marked in Bhandara than elsewhere.

10. The distribution of the kitchen population has varied as follows during the period examined :—

District.	On June 2nd.					On July 21st.				
	No. of Kitchens.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	No. of Kitchens.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Wardha	101	3,999	1,345	9,322	14,666	135	11,585	19,213	30,500	61,298
Nagpur	58	1,037	1,750	6,011	8,798	150	7,920	12,131	20,859	40,910
Chanda	137	5,467	11,436	25,883	42,786	202	20,661	36,965	64,585	122,211
Bhandara ...	215	2,337	4,130	23,771	30,238	244	6,304	11,557	42,898	60,759
Balaghat	141	1,692	3,242	24,501	29,435	225	7,569	15,717	45,707	68,993
Total ...	652	14,532	21,903	89,488	125,923	956	54,039	95,583	204,549	354,171

So far as children and weakly persons are concerned there is nothing to object to in these figures. It was fully contemplated that the great majority of the smaller cultivators and labourers would be unable to support their children and aged or infirm dependants. It was, however, believed that few able-bodied persons would resort to kitchens so long as they could find agricultural employment on reasonable wages. The very large number of adults now attending kitchens, amongst whom women largely preponderate, would appear to show either that there is an extraordinary lack of properly paid employment available, or that a large number of people prefer kitchen meals and idleness to field work and cash wages.

11. It was to clearing up this question that the Officiating Chief Commissioner's special attention was directed, and he questioned a number of charge officers, tahsildars, and malguzars on the point. The results of these enquiries has been to show :—

(*a*) that owing to the late commencement of the rains the amount of field work has hitherto been less than usual at this period of the year ;

(*b*) that owing to the considerable substitution of broadcast for transplanted rice, the amount of work available in the rice districts is considerably curtailed ;

(*c*) that in consequence of the impoverished condition of the smaller cultivators more cultivators will manage to supply their own labour from the members of their own families ;

(*d*) that the wages offered are sometimes even less and very rarely, if ever, more than usual, while they have only half the usual purchasing power ; and

(*e*) that though some of the lower castes are likely to be demoralised by kitchen relief and to prefer it to honest work, a great number of the able-bodied now attending kitchens, would gladly avail themselves of employment if assured of sufficient wages.

12. Many and various suggestions have been offered to meet the difficulties of the situation, but none of the responsible officers would go the length of absolutely closing kitchens to able-bodied persons altogether. It is evident, therefore, that what is required is to exclude the able-bodied, for whom paid employment in the fields is available, and, as far as possible, to take some work from those for whom there is none. In order to attain these objects the following procedure should be adopted as circumstances may dictate :—

(1.) Malguzars and substantial cultivators should be invited to apply for labourers at kitchens, men or women ; and all able-bodied

labourers for whom they will guarantee a week's employment on a reasonable wage should be struck off the kitchen list and handed over to them. The dependants of these persons will be fed as before, being sent, if necessary, to their own village. The arrangements to be made are contained in a memorandum drawn up for the guidance of charge officers in Wardha, appended to this letter, which may be generally followed in other districts also.

(2.) There will be many cultivators and some malguzars who either cannot afford to pay the full number of field-labourers they require or cannot pay them sufficient wages. In order to supply the deficiency a certain number of the kitchen able-bodied can be placed on the B list and handed over to them.

Example.—The mukaddam requires 25 labourers ; he can only afford to pay them 4 pice a day. He may be given 5 labourers on the B list, on condition that he pays the other 20 men 5 pice a day.

The sums mentioned in the above example are merely illustrations. The rates to be paid by the mukaddam, or by cultivators under his guarantee, may be in cash or grain, but they must suffice for the support of the actual labourers, it being understood that their dependants will continue to be supported at kitchens. Great care will be necessary that persons who can afford to pay proper wages to their labourers do not escape. There will be a great many malguzars who can obviously pay, and must do so.

(3.) Even after the immediate demand for field labour is satisfied, there may remain able-bodied persons on the kitchens. Some of these may be employed on work connected with the kitchen, such as conveyance of grain from a main kitchen to its branches, improvement of the kitchen site or water-supply, erection or repair of shelters, and so forth. Where such work is available, the meal will be refused to any able-bodied persons who decline to do it.

(4) It is on the whole less demoralizing to able-bodied persons on kitchens, for whom field employment is not available, to do some work for cash than to be fed for doing nothing ; and if the Charge Officer can arrange with the mukaddam to give work of petty village improvement, clearing of insanitary ground, improvement of village roads, repair of field bunds, and the like, men for whom work of this kind can be found may be struck off the kitchen register and placed on the B list, the mukaddam distributing the daily cash dole and being responsible for taking work from them.

(5) In addition to these measures for eliminating the able-bodied from kitchens, they may be refused admission altogether at kitchens situated within five miles of a permanent Public Works Department monsoon camp. It is necessary that the Deputy Commissioner should clearly define by name to each Charge Officer the camps to which this rule will apply. It is not desired to send persons to camps which it is the recognized policy to close.

13. Owing to the rapidity with which the situation changes, and the extent to which the demand for labour varies in different localities at different times, and the delay and difficulty involved in getting orders communicated to and understood by the subordinate agency on which reliance has to be placed, every kind of procedure indicated in the last paragraph may not be found necessary everywhere. Circumstances may have begun to change by the time that the arrangements can be completed, and it may yet be found that the pressure

is relieved spontaneously as soon as labour is more generally in demand. But, so long as the pressure of the able-bodied on kitchens continues, the above are the measures which the Officiating Chief Commissioner desires should be tried to relieve it.

14. Another matter to which I am to draw your attention is the small extent to which resort has yet been had to the B list prescribed in Famine Circular 49. It has been brought into force with judgment and intelligence in Balaghat, and it has now started in parts of Nagpur and Bhandara. In Wardha it was not previously sanctioned; and in Chanda more should have been done to introduce this form of relief. This class which our relief arrangements at present reach least are the petty cultivators who are reluctant to accept cooked food, or whose agricultural work would be unduly delayed if they were obliged to resort to a kitchen for their food. In this class would fall many of those who received takavi or grants sufficient to sow their land, but not sufficient to give them subsistence until their crops are ripe. Persons of this kind, limited to an absolute maximum of 10 per cent. of the cultivators in any charge, may be put on the B list, but this procedure should only be introduced in tracts specified by the Deputy Commissioner. For instance, in the Wardha District, the Sarwahi and Karinja circles of the Arvi Tahsil, the Girur and Kora circles of Hinganghat, and parts of the Sindi circle in the Wardha Tahsil would certainly be excluded from such a scheme. Similarly, the Katol Tahsil and parts of the Ramtek or Nagpur Tahsils in Nagpur, part of the Warora Tahsil in Chanda, and possibly a few areas in Bhandara, might safely be excluded from the benefits of this procedure.

15. Another matter to which Deputy Commissioners must pay strict attention is the prevention of abuses, by which certain persons are able to obtain double relief. Kitchen meals should be distributed everywhere at a fixed time, and special care should be taken at Civil kitchens situated near Public Works Department camps to prevent persons claiming a meal at both places.

It will also be necessary to guard against people borne on the B list also attending kitchens. Vigilance on the part of the kitchen manager will partly secure this, but the assistance of kotwars and kitchen warders should be freely enlisted. It is reported that in Balaghat kotwars have been very ready to expose attempts on the part of paupers to obtain double relief.

16. It must, however, be distinctly borne in mind that in any action taken to get rid of able-bodied persons from kitchens, no misunderstanding should be allowed by which dependants of such persons, or weakly wanderers, are excluded from the benefits of kitchen-relief; and above all it is essential that all children, whether their parents are on the B list, or have been handed over to mukaddams, or are supporting themselves, should be freely admitted. Such a warning is only necessary because of the extraordinary misunderstandings which occur in the minds of the subordinate relief establishment in spite of the plainest instructions.

17. In conclusion, I am to refer to one or two matters which specially arose for discussion in Chanda. The difficulty of supplying his kitchens with grain has caused the Deputy Commissioner of Chanda much anxiety. Authority had already been given him in several cases to make advances to banias undertaking to keep the kitchens supplied. But even with these advances the Deputy Commissioner is apprehensive that the banias may fail him. After discussing the matter fully with yourself and the Deputy Commissioner, the Officiating Chief Commissioner has decided that it is better for the Deputy Commissioner to purchase the grain as he requires it in the open market and forward it, as far as possible by famine labour supplied from the camps, to the Charge Officers. For those charges, such as Chimur, Talodhi, Chamursi and Dhanora, in which local arrangements cannot be made, this plan should be adopted. The Charge Officer can arrange for the distribution of the grain among the various kitchens of his charge by utilizing the services of the able-bodied at his kitchen in the manner indicated in clause (3) of paragraph 12

above. Advances already made to banias should be recouped gradually, and no more advances should be given.

18. In some of the remoter Zamindaris the Deputy Commissioner of Chanda had proposed to give advances to the Zamindars for the payment of labourers who would have been fit to be placed on the B list but for the difficulty of proper supervision in the large and remote charges in which these Zamindaris are comprised. Few of the Zamindars are, however, sufficiently educated or intelligent to carry out such arrangements satisfactorily, and the easiest way of overcoming the difficulties of supervision is to appoint assistant Charge Officers in these charges. The Deputy Commissioner agrees that this course will meet his difficulties, and has withdrawn his proposal to make advances to the Zamindars. The necessary appointments should be made without delay.

No. F-1966 / F-1967.

Nagpur, the 3rd August 1900.

Copy forwarded to the Public Works Department / Superintendent of Works, Central Provinces, for information.

No. F-1968 / F-1969.

Nagpur, the 3rd August 1900.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner, Jubbulpore / Nerbudda Division, for information. Special attention is invited to paragraphs 12, 14, and 15.

F-1970.

Nagpur, the 3rd August 1900.

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, for information and guidance. Special attention is invited to paragraphs 12, 14, and 15.

Enclosure in No. 22.

ATTENDANCE OF THE ABLE-BODIED ON KITCHENS IN WARDHA.
[*Vide* PARAGRAPH 12 (1)].

I.—It is stated that able-bodied labourers (chiefly women) are crowding on to kitchens, while, on the other hand, malguzars and tenants complain that they cannot obtain labourers for field work.

II.—If all these able-bodied persons were summarily turned out of the kitchens there would be risk of their suffering. All might not obtain employment, many might be underpaid.

III.—If labourers are allowed, while working for a low wage, to take food at kitchens, there would be difficulty about exacting work, while many malguzars and better-to-do cultivators, well able to afford proper wages, will throw their burdens upon Government.

IV.—To obviate this difficulty the following procedure should be adopted :—

(1) All mukaddams should be invited to apply to kitchens for able-bodied labourers, men and women, belonging to their own villages. They should state the number of persons required,

and guarantee to them a week's employment and wages at a reasonable rate, to be fixed by the Charge Officer under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner.

(2) Upon these guarantees being given the persons selected would be handed over to the mukaddam and struck off the kitchen list. Their refusal to go would be punished by immediate exclusion from the kitchen.

(3) The dependants of all such persons, including children under 14, and aged persons or other persons unfit for work, must accompany the workers to their village, and the mukaddams must agree to feed them with cooked food in the village for the week, being supplied with grain for the purpose The mukaddam will have to open a branch kitchen, at which will be fed—

(i.) all the dependants aforesaid ;

(ii.) any other residents of the village whom the manager of the main kitchen may send under the orders of the Charge or Circle Officer.

(4) The list of persons to be fed at a branch kitchen will be revised every week and the necessary food despatched. There will be no direct admission at a branch kitchen, but the mukaddam may give a meal to wanderers in reduced condition, and pass them on (if fit to travel) to the main kitchen..

(5) At the end of the week the labourers handed over to the mukaddam will be re-admitted only if enquiry shows that agricultural employment is not generally available. Their dependants will continue to be fed at the branch kitchen.

No. 23.

Letter from A. D. Younghusband, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, to the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 7232, dated Raipur, the 5th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7,221, dated the 4th August, 1900, with which was forwarded a copy of my remarks on the last weekly famine report of the Raipur District, I have the honour to submit for approval a draft memorandum of instructions which I propose to issue, with a view to checking the still-increasing rush to kitchens in that district, and at the same time of exacting some work in return for the free meals which the able-bodied are receiving.

2. These instructions have been drafted by me in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner. I think that they in no way go beyond what the Chief Commissioner has contemplated as likely to be eventually needed ; and the only question seems to be whether the time has yet come when such restrictions can safely be introduced. I think that it has, although detailed reports have not yet come in from all parts of the district, I think it may be said in general terms that the recent copious and general rain has sufficiently assured the second stage of the season's agriculture, and that the safety of the coming harvest now depends only on the last stage of the rains. Moreover, the numbers of the population relieved in kitchens is rapidly approaching the highest figure ever previously reached for the total on all forms of relief.

3. The present figures seem clearly to indicate that the Raipur population is quite capable of being relieved by means of kitchens alone. The fashion of resorting to kitchens has now become universal ; and caste scruples in this connection appear to be altogether a thing of the past. From no single charge has it been represented that there is any class of persons requiring relief who fail to obtain it under the kitchen system. There is, of course, a small number of persons in receipt of cash doles, (A list) who have never yet resorted to

kitchens, and who, as long as the option of a cash dole is open to them, will naturally prefer it. I personally believe that it would now be safe to stop cash doles altogether; but the numbers in receipt of them are very limited, and I do not think that the question need be raised at the present stage.

4. I am, however, very strongly of opinion that we have found an efficient and satisfactory substitute for the B list system; and, in the instructions now drafted, I have aimed at preserving the most important features of this system; while I submit that some of its drawbacks have been avoided. As regards the form of relief given, I think that a daily meal will be admitted to be preferable to a monthly cash dole. The form of work to be exacted, and the arrangements for exacting it, are identical under the two systems, while the desired object of giving relief to the able-bodied poor only during such period as it may prove to be really necessary can, I think, be even better secured under the elastic arrangements which I propose. Some degree of discretion must under any system be left to the man actually on the spot, and our Charge Officers have shown themselves thoroughly deserving of confidence. I submit that an arrangement under which the Charge Officer (or his assistant, who is always a picked man, with some famine experience, working under his immediate control), can give or refuse relief to individuals from day to day, according to local circumstances, has advantages over one under which relief for an entire month is given wholesale, by order of the Commissioner, to all whose names are entered in a previously prepared list.

5. I take it that, under the rule excluding from cash relief those who have once accepted food at a kitchen, the B lists in most villages in Raipur must by this time be blank, or fast becoming so. I am having this verified.

6. I would invite attention to Rule 5 in my draft instructions, which gives effect, in somewhat different language, to a suggestion put forward some time ago by the Deputy Commissioner, Raipur, in one of his weekly reports. I should be sorry to give colour to any sort of suggestion that I was seeking to drive people away from kitchens by making their remaining there conditional on their breaking caste. But, as I have already observed, caste scruples in this connection seem to have been now generally abandoned; and I doubt indeed whether the scruples of the Chamar have ever been deserving of very much respect. In some charges Chamar cooks have never been employed; but the kitchens are nevertheless frequented by Chamars, and it does not appear that a single really distressed Chamar has ever been deterred from attending on this account. They naturally prefer their own people as cooks; but I think this may now be regarded as a pure luxury, calculated to add to the attractions of the kitchens, which is no longer our object. The point is, however, one which it seems right to refer for orders.

7. If my instructions for Raipur are approved, I would ask to be allowed discretion to apply any such portions of them as may from time to time appear desirable to the Bilaspur and Sambalpur Districts also. The difference between Raipur and Bilaspur in the matter of popularity of kitchens, particularly with the Chamar community, is a problem to which it is not very easy to give a satisfactory answer. I have lately discussed it with Mr. Low, without much result. In the first place, I think, it must be allowed that distress has throughout been less acute in Bilaspur than Raipur. Apart from this attendance at kitchens appears to have become a fashion in Raipur. The example having once been set, other persons have in increasing numbers followed the lead of their neighbours. Great pressure was used in this district, in the early months of the year, to an extent which at the time I considered somewhat dangerous, in the way of forcing the infirm population into kitchens by refusing them any other form of relief. But the rush of the able-bodied during the last few weeks, since kitchens have been thrown open to them, has been altogether spontaneous. I have no doubt that kitchen relief has now been extended to many who might well do without it. At the same time I concur with the Deputy Commissioner, and all Charge Officers with whom I have had opportunities of discussion, that it amply meets all requirements of the present situation.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Draft Memorandum of Instructions.

The following instructions for further regulating admissions to kitchens in the Raipur District, and for exacting work from the inmates, are issued with the approval of the Chief Commissioner.

2. No person, unless in a state of emaciation, may henceforth be admitted to any kitchen (subject to the temporary exception mentioned in Rule 3 below) without a ticket from the Charge Officer or Assistant Charge Officer. The first step is for Charge Officers and their assistants to visit all kitchens and carefully sort out all the existing inmates giving tickets to those whom on inspection and enquiry they find to be deserving of them, and turning out the remainder. They should at the same time, by proclamation throughout the charge, invite applications for tickets from persons not already attending kitchens, and will see by careful inspection of the people in the course of their tours that no deserving cases escape relief.

3. Tickets will of course be given to all who really are infirm paupers. In other cases, people may be regarded as falling under one or other of three classes:—

(*a*) able-bodied persons who are so distressed as to require relief for themselves as well as for their dependants;

(*b*) such persons as can fairly be expected to maintain themselves but not their dependants as well;

(*c*) persons so well to do as to be capable of supporting their families as well as themselves.

NOTE.—The varying conditions of the season must be allowed for, *e.g.*, while weeding operations are in full swing many persons will fall under class (*b*) who, when the demand for agricultural labour slackens, would come into class (*a*), and should then get tickets for themselves.

Tickets should be given to persons of class (*a*) and to the *non-working dependants* of both (*a*) and (*b*). In (*c*) cases, no member of the family should be admitted. In cases of doubt, it may be found advisable to admit a limited number of the family. The local officer must use his discretion in each case. Charge Officers should check the work of their Assistants in this respect by all means in their power. The existing lists of "well-to-do persons" will of course be utilized. Appearance will often be a useful guide, and doubtful cases may well be kept under special observation.

4. As a temporary measure, until the Charge Officer and his assistants have had time to thoroughly inspect the whole charge for the purpose of issuing tickets, free admission may be allowed to continue at a few selected kitchens in central localities. Those new admissions will be kept separately until they can be dealt with by the Charge Officer or Assistant Charge Officer on his next visit.

5. Work must now be systematically exacted from all able-bodied kitchen inmates, on the lines which have been approved in connection with the B list system, as a condition of their receiving relief. Persons actually engaged in field labour should be regarded as satisfactorily fulfilling this condition. But for the remainder some form of work should be provided, the mukaddams being instructed to see that they perform it.

6. Experience has now shown that Chamars when really distressed will readily accept cooked food from the hands of Hindus, and that the maintenance in some charges of an additional staff of Chamar cooks has merely resulted in attracting well-to-do Chamars who are in no sense distressed.

This separate establishment of Chamar cooks appears to be a needless extravagance, and should be discontinued.

7. The effect of these instructions should be specially noticed by Charge Officers in their diaries.

No. 24.

Letter from A. D. Younghusband, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, to The Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 7355, dated Raipur, the 8th August, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your endorsement No. F. 1970 dated the 3rd instant, forwarding for my information and guidance a copy of your letter No. F. 1965 of the same to the address of the Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

2. As regards the application specially to the Raipur District of the instructions issued to the Nagpur Division, I would respectfully invite a reference to my letter No. 7232, dated the 5th instant, orders on which are awaited. According to all the information I have been able to gather, the state of things in Raipur differs materially in certain essential particulars from that which appears to exist in the districts of the Nagpur Division, and some differentiation of treatment seems to be called for.

3. In the first place I venture to assert that it is not generally the case in Raipur that the people are being fed for doing nothing, or that it is a question of their preferring kitchen meals and idleness to field work and cash wages. I have within the last few days been able to obtain the special testimony of several of the most experienced Charge Officers to the fact that the persons in their charges who resort to kitchens are for the most part employed in field labour, either in their own fields or in those of private employers. There are no complaints that kitchens are interfering with the supply of field labour. Those Charge Officers who formerly prophesied that this would result have now to admit that their forebodings have not been realised. The general testimony is that the kitchens are crowded both with petty cultivators who till their own fields, and with labourers who, having their food thus assured, are glad to work for private employers for the most trifling wage. I am not prepared to deny that there may be far too many such persons ; that some at least of them stand in no real need of relief, except possibly for their dependants, and that we may be going too far in subsidizing private employers by enabling them to secure for a purely nominal wage the services of persons on relief. That is a question I will come to later in this report. My respectful contention for the moment is simply that, whether over-lavish or not, kitchen relief in Raipur is not demoralising in the sense of encouraging the people to live in idleness or prejudicial to the agricultural operations of the season.

4. In some charges, where field labour is less in demand, work on the analogy of B list relief is, on the authority of paragraph 6 of your letter F. 1805, dated the 11th July 1900, being exacted from able-bodied persons attending kitchens. Detailed reports of the results are not before me ; but I understand that generally the experiments have proved successful, and that no difficulties have been experienced.

5. In paragraph 14 of the letter to the Commissioner of Nagpur, it is stated that "the class which our present relief arrangements reach least are the petty cultivators who are reluctant to accept cooked food, or whose agricultural work would be unduly delayed if they were obliged to resort to a kitchen for their food." Here again, I submit that the case is otherwise in Raipur. The officers I have referred to above are unanimous in the opinion that no such class is now to be found. That is to say, the reluctance to accept cooked food, though it of course in a measure exists, is no longer strong enough to induce these persons to submit to privation rather than resort to a kitchen. And, with a kitchen, so to speak, at every man's door (the number in the district is rapidly approaching 2,000), there is no reason why resort to them should seriously delay agricultural operations.

6. It is further reported by these officers that the great majority, if not all, of those whose names were entered on the B lists, have now resorted to

kitchens. On the principle (which I submit is an essentially sound one) that those who have once accepted kitchen relief should thenceforward be ineligible for cash doles, the B lists in most villages should now be blank.

7. Paragraph 12 (4) of No. F. 1965 directs that persons are under certain circumstances to be struck off the Kitchen Register and placed on the B list with cash doles, the object of the orders clearly being to transfer people from a state of idleness to one of work. But for the sake of attaining this object, I think it would be admitted to be a retrograde step to revert to a system of cash doles for the relief of people who have already shown their willingness to accept cooked food. I subscribe unreservedly to the proposition that "it is on the whole less demoralizing to able-bodied persons on kitchens, for whom field employment is not available, to do some work for cash than to be fed for doing nothing." But it is not, I think, more demoralising to do work in return for food than to do it for a cash wage. And where, as in Raipur, it is found possible to arrange for this, I submit that it is the most satisfactory of all forms of relief yet devised.

8. I need not repeat all the many admitted advantages of giving relief in the form of cooked food. Perhaps the most obvious advantage is that relief given in this form is of necessity wholly expended on its professed object, the maintenance in health and strength of the individual recipient, while cash relief is always liable to be abused and diverted to other objects. A further advantage which seems worth special mention in the present connection, is that, where all relief is given in kitchens the danger of double relief, to which attention is called in the 15th paragraph of your No. F. 1965, is reduced to a minimum. There may no doubt be some danger of people getting fed at more than one kitchen, and Charge Officers have already been warned, and will again be warned, to take special precautions against this. But there is after all a limit to the capacity of the human stomach, and the already well-fed man is scarcely under the same temptation to seek an unlawful and fraudulent free meal elsewhere as he who, in lieu of the original meal, was given its price, which he prefers to spend otherwise or to hoard.

9. I trust I have succeeded in showing that existing arrangements in Raipur are fully adequate to secure the primary object of all famine relief, the prevention of starvation or suffering from hunger among all classes of the people. I think the only criticism which can possibly be brought against them is that they go beyond what is necessary for this purpose; that, in relieving persons not actually in need of it, they involve a waste of public money; and that they tend to the demoralization of the people. I do not believe, on the information before me, that the actual facts would justify such criticism to any great extent. But I am fully alive to the dangers suggested, and it was in order to guard against them that I drafted the instructions recently submitted for approval, for selection of the persons admitted to relief, and for the due exaction of work. These instructions, I may observe, merely systematize and reduce to rule arrangements on which individual officers have already been experimenting for themselves. Amplified, as they well may be, in the light of the Chief Commissioner's orders to the Nagpur Division, I submit that they should remove all grounds for adverse criticism of the kitchen system.

10. I would then earnestly recommend the final abandonment as regards the Raipur District, not by any means of the essential principles of the B list system, but of that particular feature of it which prescribes the giving of cash doles, and would ask permission to continue to rely mainly on kitchens for such relief as is still needed to the able-bodied as well as to the children, the old, and the weakly. I think, however, that the time has come when for statistical purposes the two classes should be discriminated. I would in future returns divide kitchen inmates into workers and dependants. The former class might be returned as "relieved in return for work on the analogy of the B list."

11. Subject to these remarks, I think that the provisions of paragraph 12 of your letter No. F. 1,965 might be generally applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Raipur District. They should rectify what, I think, is a matter which might be adversely criticised at the present moment, the excessive subsidization of

private employers by the provision of free meals at Government expense for their employés. Of the Wardha rules given in the Appendix the only one that seems unnecessary (in view of the large number of branch kitchens already open in Raipur) is No. IV. (3). In paragraph 12 (2) I would omit the words "placed on the B list and," and in the *example* for "labourers on the B list" I would substitute "labourers attending the kitchen." Clause (4) I have already discussed. I think that my draft instructions practically meet the essential requirements of both this and (3). I should prefer not to adopt clause (5). If our kitchens have the effect of employing a Public Works Department work, I think the latter can safely and advantageously be closed.

12. I trust that the spirit of paragraph 16 has been sufficiently kept in my draft instructions. I have carefully provided for the class requiring relief for their dependants though not for themselves individually. I have, however, recognized the existence of a more prosperous class, requiring no relief even for their dependants. There can be no doubt that many persons, who are in no sense famine-stricken and who would not dream of coming on relief themselves, have no scruples about sending their children to the kitchen for free meals; and it is this class which I intended to exclude. But paragraph 16 seems open to the interpretation that *all* children are to be admitted to kitchens without question, and perhaps the Chief Commissioner may be of opinion that this is the only safe rule. If so, my instructions will require amendment.

No. 25.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, Raipur, No. F. 2,035 *dated Nagpur, the* 14*th August*, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters, Nos. 7,232 and 7,355, of the 5th and 8th instant, respectively.

2. In Famine Circular, No. 53,* of this date, you will find general instructions on the restriction of kitchen relief which will take the place of the temporary measures laid down for the Nagpur districts, so far as these have not already had the desired effect. You will observe from the Circular in question that the orders now issued include and go further than the plan advocated in your draft rules, with the general principles of which the Officiating Chief Commissioner fully agrees.

3. The question before the Officiating Chief Commissioner in connection with the Raipur relief system is not whether it has been successful in keeping the people relieved in health and strength (of this there can be no doubt), but whether it has not gone much further than was necessary to secure from serious privation those who were in real need. The manner in which the numbers relieved at kitchens has risen week by week, by leaps and bounds, although there should have been an increase of field employment available, seems to show that the burden of paying for agricultural operations has been shifted from the shoulders of the employer to those of the Government.

4. The advantage of the B list system of cash doles to poor labourers in return for work was that the persons relieved are arrived at by selection, and limited to a certain number, being employed for the most part on work which could not otherwise be paid for. The rest of the able-bodied were expected to shift for themselves, the permission to receive cooked food at a kitchen being a safeguard against possible injury to such people due to failure to appreciate their necessity. This was the theory of the rains programme, to supplement, not to supply, the employment and wages of the country. But the idea was to supplement it, not by adding to the earnings of those employed, but by reducing the number to share the available employment and earnings.

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* No. 26.

5. Had this theory been fully realised in fact it would probably have met all necessities. But two causes contributed to prevent its effective realisation—the delay in the rains, and the unexpected readiness of the poorer classes to accept cooked food. These two factors in the situation encouraged the Deputy Commissioner of Raipur to place almost his sole reliance upon kitchen relief. The result has been to invert the theory of the rains relief arrangements. Instead of Government supplementing the deficiencies of the demand of private employers, the private employers have supplemented Government relief by the grant of only so much as was necessary to induce a kitchen-fed labourer to do a little work in the fields. In fact, the labour market has become disorganised.

6. A fear that this might result from a widespread extension of kitchen relief to persons engaged on agricultural work was expressed at the Raipur Conference, but it was then too early to define accurately the limits of kitchen relief when employment should become available. While the Officiating Chief Commissioner fully recognises the great efforts made by the Deputy Commissioner and his subordinates to extend the benefits of kitchen relief on a scale hitherto quite unprecedented, he feels that the time has come to impose some restrictions upon resort to this form of relief. It is quite certain that so long as labour is available to well-to-do malguzars and cultivators for a trifling sum, the efforts of any labourer to subsist by field work without resort to a kitchen must be quite fruitless.

7. There is no objection to a certain proportion of the kitchen fed, who would otherwise have been placed upon the B list. being employed under the direction of the mukaddam upon petty village work or field labour ; but the work they are employed on must be work which either would not otherwise have been available or could not have been paid for. It is this distinction between the Raipur system and the B list method which you do not seem to have quite fully appreciated.

8. The Officiating Chief Commissioner desires, therefore, that you will carry out the measures laid down in Famine Circular, No. 53, of this date, for exclusion of the able-bodied in addition to the exclusion of the well-to-do and their dependants which your own proposals contemplate. In making the selection for exclusion care must be taken that so far as possible the able-bodied remaining are employed on work which could not be paid for, whether in their own fields or in those of petty cultivators.

9. These measures must be carried out without delay. You will observe that, if necessary, they may be gradually introduced [paragraph 7 (ii) of the circular] ; but the beginning must at once be made, as directed, throughout the Division. If, however, there are any special and limited areas in which you think the risk too great, the Officiating Chief Commissioner will be prepared to permit the postponement in these areas of the expulsion of able-bodied labourers from kitchens, on good cause being shown. The other measures will, of course, be introduced even in these tracts. You and all local officers will carefully watch the effect of these measures.

No. 26.

Famine Circular from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, Central Provinces, No. 53, *dated Nagpur, the* 14*th August,* 1900.

I am directed to address you on the subject of the restriction of kitchen relief.

2. The policy of free admission to kitchens, as laid down originally in Famine Circular No. 49 contemplated—

(*a.*) That all dependants of labourers and cultivators unable to support them should be relieved.

(*b.*) That able-bodied persons unable to find work, who were not provided for by cash doles on the B lists, should have a safeguard against risk of starvation.

It was believed that, as a rule, anyone who could secure a cash wage for his labour in the field would prefer this to the acceptance of cooked food in a Government kitchen ; but that the existence of these institutions, scattered broadcast over the country, would prove a most valuable and necessary safeguard at a time when employment was slack and wages possessed only half their usual purchasing power.

3. The resort to kitchens has far exceeded expectation. The principal cause for this was the delay in the rains. The first falls of rain in every district, except Raipur and Sambalpur, were extremely light, and were succeeded by a long period of hot weather conditions, broken only by a few scattered showers. Even where these falls eventually turned out to have been sufficient to keep alive the earliest sown seedlings, the confidence of the people, weakened by a long series of disappointments and losses, was too much shaken to admit of their trusting their scanty seed to the risk of early failure, and the area sown early was thus far below normal. It was not until the close of the first week in July that the monsoon was really established, and agricultural operations were tardily started on their full scale.

4. This delay has been doubly disastrous. It has retarded by nearly a month the weeding and transplanting operations upon which the agricultural classes rely for their employment ; and by its effect on the *morale* of the people, it has driven hundreds to resort to relief who would otherwise have shifted for themselves. The numbers of people who returned from the large works to their villages, or whom the completion of the village works left without occupation, alarmed by the rising prices and the threatening of future failure, were obliged to overcome their natural reluctance to accept cooked food in the publicity of a kitchen. That this was so during the period of uncertainty and inaction which preceded the establishment of the rains, is a matter wholly for congratulation. In no other way could relief have reached the crowds who sorely needed it, except at the expense of once more driving them from their villages, overcrowding and disorganizing works, and upsetting the plans laid for bringing the people back to their homes by the time that their presence was required there. There would have been a period of hesitation which would have had a most injurious effect on the physical condition of the labouring population.

5. While, however, the provision of cooked meals, almost at their door, has thus been wholly successful in preserving in good condition the classes that would otherwise have suffered, it has now become open to serious abuses, which require to be checked by very early measures. Circumstances have now changed ; labour is becoming available ; the necessity for relief is much diminished ; but the people in some districts cling to the kitchens.

6. The Officiating Chief Commissioner has now visited every district of the two Southern Divisions, and has also met the Commissioners of the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Divisions, and all the Deputy Commissioners of the former, in conference at Hoshangabad. Orders were issued as the result of the conference in the Chhattisgarh and Nagpur Divisions which were suitable to the requirements of these tracts at the time of issue. But the agricultural situation so rapidly changes at this season from week to week, and almost from day to day, that orders which were adequate a week or two ago do not go far enough now. Thus in Raipur, which was the district first visited at the beginning of July, field labour was then so scanty that any restriction of kitchen relief was impossible ; all that could be done was to watch the situation, and experiment in the direction of taking work from the kitchen-fed as a means of discouraging any one who might resort to kitchen meals out of sheer idleness. By the time that Mr. Fraser visited the Nagpur districts, it was evident that employment was increasing to an extent which warranted the expulsion from kitchens of those for whom work could with certainty be provided in the fields. The Nagpur rules contemplated that those thus got rid of would not be re-admitted, if, after the period for which the wages were guaranteed, general employment

became available. By the time that the present orders issue, such general employment will be available ; and we shall now soon be in sight of the harvest of maize and early millets which are of so much assistance until the major crops ripen.

7. The information gained at the Hoshangabad conference shows most clearly that very large restrictions on kitchen relief are now possible in the two Northern Divisions, while in the south the conditions must by this time be very similar. The following measures were accordingly decided upon and must now be given effect to :—

(i.) *To exclude at once from kitchens all well-to-do persons and their dependants.*—Some cases have been met with of individuals who, though possessed of resources, cash, ornaments, cattle or other property, have yet resorted to kitchen relief. And some such persons, though unwilling to come themselves, are ready to send their children and aged dependants whom they are perfectly capable of supporting. Though these may not constitute any large percentage of those on kitchen relief, they are persons who are not fit recipients of relief, and they must be at once excluded. This work must be at once undertaken by Charge Officers, Assistant Charge Officers, and Circle Officers. Now that fodder is generally available the value of cattle has recovered, and surplus cattle have become an asset, which disentitles the owner to State relief.

(ii.) *The exclusion of the able-bodied from kitchens.*—This is a measure which cannot at once be carried out fully in some parts, but which must now be at least gradually enforced in all. An exception can only be made in very special areas where either kharif cropping is insignificant, or the crops are unusually backward. In some parts of the Jubbulpore Division, for instance, and in Chhindwara, this policy has already been carried out successfully. It can now be vigorously carried out in Saugor, Damoh, Hoshangabad, Nimar, Wardha, and Nagpur, and, though perhaps more gradually, in the rice districts. The first step must be an order to Charge and Circle Officers to turn out of the kitchens a certain percentage, to be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner for each charge, but not less than 25 per cent., and generally 50 per cent., of the able-bodied adults, men and women, now on kitchens. The selection of the particular persons to be turned out must rest with each local officer, but they should generally first turn out the strongest. This must be followed in a fortnight's time by an order to exclude at least half the remainder ; the rest, if any remain, being eliminated after a further similar period. By the time that the final exclusion is made it will be the middle of September, when the earliest crops will be coming into the market, and arrangements for winding up famine relief altogether will be well in sight.

(iii.) *Closure of kitchen relief to new applicants, except* (1) *children of the poor,* (2) *emaciated persons, or* (3) *persons who have been given tickets by Charge Officers.*—It is practically certain that all able-bodied persons who really need relief have already applied for it. Only wanderers have to be considered. There are still in every district works open to which these can be directed, while any such who show physical signs of want of food may, even under this rule, be admitted.

8. The effect of the action taken under these rules must be most carefully supervised, and the intelligence with which it has been carried out by subordinate officers watched and noted in the weekly reports. It is, indeed, desirable that a certain amount of this elimination work should be undertaken

by Deputy Commissioners and the superior Inspecting Officers, in order that its feasibility and the best means of carrying it out may be demonstrated to and understood by the less experienced relief officials.

No. 27.

Famine Circular from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, Central Provinces, No. 56, *dated Nagpur, the* 19*th September*, 1900.

I am directed to address you regarding the contraction of famine relief which the early harvested crops and the prospects of the main kharif crops render expedient and safe.

2. The experience of the last famine has shown that it is desirable that the curtailment of relief should be carried out with discrimination during September ; and this caution has been more than ever necessary this year as the crops are in many places decidedly backward, and maize and the early millets are likely to come into market later than usual. But while the extensive curtailment of relief may not be everywhere possible in September, there are particular districts, or tracts in districts, in which, owing to local circumstances, it is possible to cut down relief with safety earlier than in other districts or in other parts of the same districts. For example, the Deputy Commissioner, Nimar, is excluding from kitchens able-bodied children from 10 to 14, who are in good health, with effect from the 15th of this month ; and in Seoni the Deputy Commissioner has been able to close some kitchens in tracts least distressed, giving 15 days' dole to the few incapable paupers who would otherwise be dependent on village charity.

3. Famine Circular, No. 53, directed the gradual exclusion from kitchens of the able-bodied ; and this was followed up in the case of Chhattisgarh by an order for the closure of the branch kitchens which have been so much extended in that Division. The branch kitchen system has not, the Officiating Chief Commissioner believes, been much resorted to outside Chhattisgarh ; but in all localities where kitchens are more numerous than to give one kitchen for a three miles radius, or 27 square miles area, which Famine Circular, No. 49, laid down as a minimum, reduction of kitchens down to that proportion has now become safe. When any superfluous kitchen is closed, the paupers, incapable of walking to the nearest open kitchen for their meals, can be put temporarily on village relief ; while for the remainder a distance test is imposed sufficient to deter those who can provide for themselves, but not severe enough to deny relief to those really distressed. This step should, therefore, be undertaken at once, except where the Deputy Commissioner, with the concurrence of the Commissioner, thinks it unsafe to do so. The exclusion of able-bodied children of 10 and over which has come into force in Nimar from the 15th September, may also be extended to any tracts in any Division in which the Commissioner may regard as ripe for this measure.

4. The rate at which further curtailment ending in the total closure of all famine relief shall proceed, is largely dependent both on the character of the weather during this critical month of September and on the conditions of each tract. The procedure to be followed should be everywhere the same, but the date at which a commencement is made and the rapidity with which restrictions are extended must vary according to local needs. But it must be accepted as a principle that relief must now be refused to anyone who has gathered a crop of maize, millet, or early rice. The general procedure to be adopted in respect of the various measures of relief is described in the following paragraphs.

A.—Work Relief.

I.—*Public Works Department Relief.*

5. Many of our Public Works Department camps are now very sparsely attended, and though it is expedient to keep a few open here and there so as to provide for the able-bodied who, after being turned out of kitchens, are unable to find employment, it will be apparent before very long where and how far this precaution is necessary.

The general procedure of closing camps at which attendance has fallen off and drafting the remnant to the nearest open camp if they wish to go, may be followed during this month. But by the end of September it should be possible to close almost all Public Works Department camps ; and none should be open after October 15th. In 1897, Public Works Department works continued open for a longer period than this ; but in this famine, owing to the extension of kitchen relief, the numbers on Public Works Department works at the end of August, 1900, were less than the numbers on such works on the 15th October, 1897.

6. When any camp is going to be finally broken up without drafts being made to another, due notice should be given to the workers a week beforehand ; and no new admissions should be allowed except of persons requiring medical treatment. The Charge Officer should be present in order to take over the infirm dependents whom he may either transfer to the kitchens nearest their homes, or present with a cash dole to cover such period as the Deputy Commissioner may direct.

The camp kitchen may be kept open for a few days while such arrangements are being made. The sick in hospital will remain on in charge of the Hospital Assistant until the Civil Surgeon's orders can be received regarding their disposal. The convalescent can be sent home with doles to be given by the Charge Officer, and those fit to be moved can be sent to the nearest dispensary able to accommodate them, or to the poor-house or pauper ward if any exists in the district.

7. In the case of workers, a dole of three days' minimum wage should be allowed to those who come from a distance, and to others if the Deputy Commissioner so directs. Orders regarding the latter will be issued by the Deputy Commissioner when the camp is ordered to be closed ; and the grant or refusal of the parting dole will depend on the date on which the camp is closed and the circumstances of the tract it serves.

II.—*Village Works.*

8. Village works are already on a very small scale. If they have not died a natural death meanwhile they should be closed by the end of September. The special works carried out in Betul under the depôt system, and in Mandla on the B list system, may continue for a week or two longer if the Commissioners of the Divisions concerned consider this necessary.

III.—*Forest Works.*

9. Except for road-works in Chanda, there is practically no forest work carried out as a measure of famine relief. The Chanda works should be governed by the same rules as apply to Public Works Department works.

IV.—*Weaver Relief.*

10. Weaver relief is extensive only in the chief towns of Nagpur and in Burhanpur. The time for stopping this relief depends on the course of prices.

in Nimar and Nagpur in 1897 prices began to fall in October, but the drop was only substantial when November began. The final payments might, however, be so adjusted as to carry the weaving families up to the 15th October.

V.—*B List Relief.*

11. This special form of relief has been most largely extended to petty cultivators. In the great majority of cases the doles already given will expire some time in the current month. Such persons as grow early millets and maize will be independent of relief before the end of the month, and doles to cover the whole of the month should rarely be given. October 15th should be the latest date up to which a dole should run, and this only in exceptional tracts, where there are only late crops and harvesting will not have begun by that date.

B.—Gratuitous Relief.

12. Of the various heads of gratuitous relief, that to be given to "dependants" is disposed of under the orders relating to Public Works Department works (paragraph 6 above). Three remain to be considered, viz. :—

I.—Poor-houses.

II.—Kitchens.

III.—Village relief.

I.—*Poor-houses.*

13. There are very few poor-houses in the Provinces, namely—

Raipur,	Khandwa,
Dhamtari,	Burhanpur,
Bilaspur,	Harsud,
Sambalpur,	Saugor.

But there are also pauper wards attached to several dispensaries which take the place of poor-house hospitals. To judge from the experience of the last famine, these institutions are likely to be the last to be closed. They afford a shelter for the waifs and strays who have no belongings ; their inmates are the last people who can be thrown on to private charity. The system of regular drafting which has been followed throughout where poor-houses are established must of course continue, but in the closing of relief generally they may receive some accessions from the interior who cannot easily be provided for. Orders regarding these will issue later when it is known how many remain on the hands of Government.

II.—*Kitchens.*

14. The further steps to be taken at once towards the reduction of kitchen relief have been indicated in paragraph 3 above. Directly September is over a large number of kitchens should be closed, the process of closing continuing during October. As soon as prices have fallen, or harvesting begins in earnest, the earnings of the labourer will become sufficient for the support of his family. Kitchens can, therefore, be closed more rapidly where prices fall most, or where the crops are most forward. The possibility of reducing kitchen relief will be judged of by intelligent inspection. If the number of kitchens is reduced, the condition of the children in a village in which a kitchen has been abolished for some time will be the best index as to the advisability of further

closing. But before a kitchen can be safely closed altogether, considerable elimination preparatory to closure will be possible and necessary. Persons in good condition, who are not of the lowest class, which may be judged by their appearance, dress, utensils and so forth, may be excluded as a first step, and fat and robust children may also be turned off wherever the circumstances of the tract indicate early reduction of kitchen relief. As soon as by voluntary departure or elimination the numbers at a kitchen have been reduced to 20 or less, the kitchen may be closed. In the last famine kitchen relief reached its maximum only on the 30th September, and was not finally closed until December. In the present year the condition of the people warrants its discontinuance, save in a few exceptional cases, at a much earlier date. In Mr. Fraser's opinion all kitchens should be closed by the 15th November; and none should be kept open after the end of October except for special reasons. At least three days' notice should be given to the people when a kitchen is about to be closed. In the case of kitchens closed in September or the first half of October, it will generally be necessary to put incapable, sick or infirm people on village relief temporarily. The period for which a dole is given then will vary with the date of closure and the proximity of the harvests.

III.—*Village Relief* (*A List*).

15. As stated in the last paragraph the village relief list will receive a temporary increase as kitchens are closed. Apart from this the changes should be in the direction of reduction. In the last famine the numbers on this relief only reached their maximum on the 15th of October, and there were still a large number borne on the lists at the end of November. Here again the better condition of the people should permit an earlier reduction, the period for which relief is continued varying with the circumstances of the tract and the condition of the relieved. The doles for instance to those who are not able-bodied, but are capable of earning wages by harvesting may terminate by the 1st or 15th October or the 1st November according to the state of the harvest.

Those who are infirm and incapable of any work, but who have relatives to support them, may be continued on the list for a week or fortnight longer; while those who are in normal times dependent on village charity may receive doles up to the 1st December, or as an extreme maximum the 15th December. But such cases should be very few, and by the 15th November the A list of village relief should be a very small one.

16. Whenever relief of any kind is being stopped or much reduced, it is of great importance that the attention of the people should be drawn to the responsibility of the village for the support of its own paupers. This responsibility must be enforced through the mukaddam, who should be warned of his obligation under Rule VI. (*t*) (iii.) framed under Section 141 (1) of the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act. Wherever the final dole is given to a person who will ultimately be dependent on village charity, the mukaddam should be informed that it is the final dole, and that he must arrange on the expiry of the period which it covers for the support of the pauper by village charity.

17. In conclusion I am to ask that there shall be attached to the monthly reports for September a concise account of the orders issued in each district to carry out the instructions of this Circular.

18. For facility of reference a table is appended showing the earliest and normal dates on which the harvesting of the principal crops begins in each district.

Enclosure in No. 27.

Dates when harvesting begins of the principal Kharif Crops.

E = EARLIEST.
N = NORMAL.

—	Maize.		Early Millets.		Rice.		Cotton.		Jute.		Early urad and mung.	
	E.	N.	E.	N.	E.	N.	E.	N.	E.	N.	E.	N
Saugor	Aug. 10th.	Aug. 20th.	Aug. 25th.	Sept. 10th.	Oct. 1st.	Oct. 20th.	Oct. 10th.	Nov. 1st.	Nov. 1st.	Nov. 15th.	—	—
Damoh	„	„	Sept. 5th.	Sept. 15th.	Sept. 5th.	Sept. 20th.	Nov. 1st.	Nov. 20th.	Nov. 10th.	Nov. 20th.	—	—
Jubbulpore	·	—	Oct. 10th.	Oct. 25th.	Sept. 25th.	Oct. 10th.	Oct. 25th.	Nov. 11th.	„	„	—	—
Mandla	—	—	Nov. 15th.	Nov. 30th.	Nov. 1st.	Nov. 15th.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seoni	Aug. 10th.	Aug. 20th.	Aug. 10th.	Aug. 20th.	Sept. 15th.	Oct. 15th.	Nov. 1st.	Nov. 20th.	Nov. 15th.	Nov. 25th.	—	—
Narsinghpur .. .. ..•	—	—	Aug. 15th.	Sept. 1st.	Sept. 25th.	Oct. 1st.	„	„	Oct. 15th.	Nov. 15th.	—	—
Hoshangabad	—	—	Aug. 25th.	„	Sept. 5th.	Oct. 5th.	Nov. 20th.	Dec. 10th.	Nov. 1st.	Nov. 10th.	—	—
Nimar	–	—	Sept. 5th.	Sept. 20th.	„	Oct. 10th.	Oct. 4th.	Oct. 20th.	Nov. 8th.	Nov. 15th.	Sept. 1st.	Sept. 10th.
Betul	—	—	Aug. 25th.	Sept. 1st.	Sept. 15th.	Oct. 15th.	Nov. 10th.	Nov. 20th.	Nov. 15th.	Nov. 30th.	—	—
Chhindwara	—	—	Aug. 15th.	Aug. 25th.	„	„	Nov. 1st.	Nov. 15th.	„	„	—	—
Wardha	—	—	—	—	Oct. 1st.	Oct. 25th.	Nov. 10th.	Nov. 25th.	Dec. 1st.	Dec. 15th.	Sept. 15th.	Oct. 1st.
Nagpur	—	—	—	—	Oct. 10th.	Nov. 5th.	Oct. 15th.	Nov. 1st.	Dec. 6th.	Dec. 12th.	„	„
Chanda	—	—	—	—	Oct. 1st.	Oct. 15th.	Oct. 31st.	Nov. 10th.	Dec. 1st.	Dec. 10th.	—	—
Bhandara	—	—	Aug. 15th.	Aug. 25th.	„	„	—	—	„	„	—	—
Balaghat	—	—	„	„	Oct. 5th.	„	—	—	—	—	—	—
Raipur	—	—	Oct. 8th.	Nov. 15th.	Oct. 9th.	Nov. 15th.	—	—	—	—	—	
Bilaspur	—	—	Aug. 15th.	Aug. 31st.	Oct. 1st.	Nov. 15th.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sambalpur	—	—	—	—	Aug. 20th.	Oct. 20th.	—	—	—	—	Nov. 3rd.	Nov. 7th.

FAMINE EXPENDITURE—ADDITIONAL GRANT.

No. 28.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Simla, No. F.-1865, dated Nagpur, the 16th July, 1900.

I am directed to address you with reference to the necessity for an additional grant for famine expenditure. The Officiating Chief Commissioner very much regrets that it should be necessary to make this application, but there is unfortunately no other course open to him.

2. In Mr. Fox-Strangways' letter No. 533 of the 18th January last, submitting the Budget Estimates for the year 1900-1901 to the Finance and Commerce Department, the famine expenditure for the year was estimated at 200 lakhs, of which 120 were put down against civil expenditure and 80 against Public Works Department. In the Budget sanctioned by the Government of

India the total estimate was lowered to 180 lakhs ; and the distribution was altered to Civil 75 and Public Works Department 105. The reason for these alterations was not stated.

3. At the time that the Budget Estimates were submitted, stress was laid on the fact that successive estimates of the numbers likely to come on relief had proved too low, and that if the rise in numbers which was then becoming so marked should contiuue, even the estimate submitted must prove inadequate. The estimate of 200 lakhs, which had been drawn up some considerable time before the issue of the letter submitting the Budget, proceeded on the assumption that the numbers on relief in April, May and June would be about a million and a half, that they would drop in July to a million, and that thereafter there would be a continued fall.

4. By the time, however, that the above-mentioned letter actually issued in print, a further estimate of the numbers likely to be relieved in April, May, June had issued in the Famine Department (No. F-83 of the 13th January 1900, reply to Revenue and Agriculture Department's letter No. 2-49—41-F, of the 19th December 1899). In this letter the numbers on relief in the three months in question were estimated as follows :—

Month.	Number.
April	1,750,000
May	1,900,000
June	1,250,000

The actual figures have been :—

Month.	Number.
April	1,769,000
May	1,956,000
June	1,913,000

The estimates for April and May have turned out to be fairly accurate ; but the falling-off expected in June has not occurred, owing to the great delay in the establishment of the monsoon. The returns for the first week of July show a further rise, and the effect of the delay in the rains will be felt for a long time to come. The early millets and maize, which can generally be relied on to replenish the food-supply of the poorest classes at the end of August, will be a month late. The delay has also had effect on the condition of the people by causing alarm, raising prices, protracting the conditions of bad water-supply and consequent cholera, and postponing the employment which sowing operations afford. All these disadvantageous results. direct and indirect, of the delay in the rains have prolonged the transition period required for the movement of the people from large works to their villages, and have thus rendered necessary an increase of famine expenditure.

5. The sum of 200 lakhs first estimated would not in any case have been sufficient on the figures adopted in my letter of the 13th January last, but under the circumstances described in the last paragraph, it will be necessary to increase very substantially the reduced grant of 180 lakhs made by the Government of India.

The credits already issued by the Public Works Department absorb nearly the whole of the 105 lakhs assigned to Public Works Department expenditure, and that Department estimates for an additional expenditure over and above the grant of 15 lakhs to carry them over the rains. On the other hand, the grant of 75 lakhs (as against 120 asked for) for Civil expenditure has proved quite inadequate. The credits covering expenditure up to the end of July have already reached 81 lakhs, of which 21 lakhs constitute the estimated expenditure of that month. As the bulk of the famine relief expenditure is likely to be incurred to an increasing degree in the Civil Department as the rains advance, the monthly expenditure is not likely to any very large decrease for some time to come. The following estimate is the best which it is possible to make under present circumstances :—

	Rs.
Incurred up to the end of July	81,00,000
August	24,00,000
September	18,00,000
October...	15,00,000
November	5,00,000
Total	1,43,00,000

6. The further sum required will, therefore, be as follows :—

	Lakhs.
Estimated Civil expenditure	143
Estimated Public Works Department expenditure	120
Add for unforeseen expenditure in winding up the famine	2
Total	265
Deduct grant already made	180
Balance now asked for	85

7. The excellent rain which has fallen throughout the Province during the last week, by improving prospects and stimulating agricultural operations, will, it is hoped, materially improve the situation ; and when weeding operations start next month, the decline in the number relieved may be larger than it is now anticipated. In that case, it may not prove necessary to expend the whole of the additional grant now asked for. No one would welcome such a contingency more than Mr. Fraser ; but at present it would be unsafe to pitch the estimate of additional expenditure at a lower figure than the 85 lakhs as calculated above. I am accordingly to ask that the Government of India may be pleased to allot an additional grant of 85 lakhs.

No. 29.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 1637,-*F., dated Simla, the 27th July,* 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Craddock's letter No. 1865.-F., dated 16th July, 1900, submitting a revised estimate of expenditure on famine relief in the Central Provinces during the current financial year. The provision made in the budget sanctioned by the Government of India was 180 lakhs. Your revised estimate of expenditure amounts to 265 lakhs, and you apply for an additional allotment of 85 lakhs to cover the difference between the sanctioned and revised estimates.

2. The Governor General in Council is pleased to sanction an additional allotment of 85 lakhs, but hopes that the possibility of the whole amount not being needed, which is mentioned in the last paragraph of your Secretary's letter, may, if circumstances continue favourable, be realised.

MORTALITY IN NIMAR DISTRICT.

No. 30.

Letter from Colonel A. Scott-Reid, I.M.S., Administrative Medical Officer, Central Provinces, to the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 4445–84 *dated Nagpur, the 9th August,* 1900.

With reference to your letter No. F-1882, dated the 18th July, 1900, inviting my attention to the review by the Civil Surgeon of the vital statistics of the Nimar District for the month of June, 1900, and requesting me to make an enquiry into the causes of the excessive mortality, reporting the result for the information of the Chief Commissioner, I have the honour to submit the following.

From investigations made during my recent short stay at Khandwa, the chief reasons for the apparent high ratios which have been quoted appear to me to be :—

I.—Increase in the resident population from immigration.

II.—The influx of large number of foreigners.

III.—General unhealthy character of the season.

IV.—The prevalence in the district, for the first time, of famine in a severe form.

I shall now deal briefly with these points.

2. As regards I., the exact result cannot of course be ascertained without a general census of the district, but I think that the following facts and inferences indicate, if they do not prove, that the resident population has increased considerably in recent years, and that the ratio of mortality is not as great as it seems.

(1) Birth-rate.

Subjoined is a tabular statement showing the birth and death rates in the Nimar District according to the deduced populations (that is the figures arrived at by adding the births to, and subtracting the deaths from, the census number

started with) from 1891 to 1899, and for the first six months of the current year :—

Year.	Deduced Population.	Births.			Deaths.		
		Total Births.	Birth-rate per Mensem.	Birth-rate per Annum.	Total Deaths.	Death-rate per Mensem.	Death-rate per Annum.
1891	286,612*	11,402	3·31	39·78	9,428	2·74	32·89
1892	286,421	10,403	3·02	36·32	9,013	2·62	31·47
1893	291,340	11,453	3·27	39·31	7,909	2·26	27·15
1894	290,814	9,079	2·60	31·22	11,361	3·25	39·06
1895	290,120	10,395	2·98	35·83	12,746	3·66	43·93
1896	285,830	11,015	3·21	38·53	12,324	3·59	43·11
1897	285,801	12,731	3·71	44·54	17,030	4·96	59·58
1898	280,743	12,374	3·67	44·07	9,777	2·90	34·82
1899	285,939	16,860	4·91	58·96	13,043	3·45	41·40
1900 January ...	287,766	1,110	3·86	46·29	1,726	6·00	72·00
1900 February ...	287,387	1,056	3·67	44·09	1,435	4·99	59·92
1900 March ...	286,693	1,405	4·90	58·80	2.099	7·32	87·85
1900 April ...	285,903	1,306	4·57	54·82	2,096	7·33	87·97
1900 May	284,711	1,185	4·16	49·94	2,377	8·35	100·19
1900 June... ...	281,730	1,042	3·69	44·38	4,023	14·28	171·35

* This figure has been arrived at by adding the births up to the end of June to, and subtracting the deaths during that period from, the census population.

Cæteris paribus, the number of births ought to bear a fairly constant relation to the population, and conversely ; yet we find that, at the end of 1899, the former had increased by nearly a half, while the latter is shown as having actually decreased. In the absence of any special circumstances influencing the procreativeness of the Nimaris, I can only conclude that their number has been largely added to by immigration, and, that at the end of the period quoted, it really stood at something like 423,632 instead of 285,939. Assuming the former figure to be the more correct, and using it in the calculation of the death-rate for June, it would reduce the ratio from 171·35 to 113·95 per mille per annum, or, excluding deaths from epidemic disease, to 79·96. The latter is still a high figure, but it must be remembered that the influx of foreigners, which I consider a more potent factor, has been left out in the calculation.

The following table shows the birth-rates of the different Provinces of India for 1899 :—

Province.	Birth-rate.	Province.	Birth-rate.
Punjab	48·40	Central Provinces (including Chhattisgarh Zamindaris).	47·25
Bengal	42·96	Madras	31·30
N.-W.P. and Oudh	33·19	Bombay	36·42
Assam	35·45	Hyderabad Assigned Districts	50·50

The rate for the Nimar District was 58·96.

It is true that since then the figure has fallen to 44·38 in June, 1900, the time at which the effects of the famine, and in no other direction are they usually more apparent, would, in the course of nature, commence to be felt. Still 44·38 is a high ratio for even a prosperous year,—in such a season as this phenomenally so,—and I cannot believe that it has been calculated on anything like a correct basis.

(2) Death-rate.

A similar deduction may be drawn from the death-rates. That in Nimar for 1898, an exceptionally healthy season, was 34·82 (calculated on the deduced population), that is to say, 9·38 above the provincial rate (excluding Zamindaris), 25·44, for the same year, although, on other grounds, the district is known to be one of the healthiest in the Central Provinces. However, it seems unnecessary to pursue this argument further.

(3) Colonisation.

Since last census, a number of new villages have been opened up in the Nimar District, which must have undoubtedly encouraged immigration, but I do not possess sufficient knowledge on this subject to do more than allude to it. I was informed by the Deputy Commissioner that the village of Bhorekheda, near Singaji Station, was reckoned as having a population of 100, while, early in October last, there were over that number of residents on relief in it.

3. As regards II., the district has a border line with Holkar's State, extending to some 150 miles, and also marches with Khandesh and Berar. From these tracts hordes of outsiders appear to have swarmed into Nimar, doubtless attracted by the liberal measures of relief offered, especially that in the form of free kitchens, and, from their wretched condition, causing a mortality, although not a birth-rate, out of all proportion to their actual numbers. What the latter are, it is at present impossible to form even an approximate estimate, nor, if all goes well, will the fact appear in the coming census. As diffused among the general population, it is difficult to discriminate foreigners from permanent residents, the former concealing their domicile from fear of deportation, and it is only by cross-questioning and catching them out in their statements that the truth is occasionally ascertained. In communities under immediate control and supervision, the task, however, becomes easier, and the following instances may serve to demonstrate the proposition :—

(*a.*) When I inspected the District Jail on the 28th July, out of 226 prisoners 107 were foreigners.

(*b.*) On the same date in the Khandwa poor-house only 10 of 68 inmates were Nimáris.

(*c.*) In the relief kitchen half of the 1,800 recipients were believed to be foreigners.

(*d.*) In the Burhanpur poor-house on the preceding day 268 out of 314 were outsiders, and in June, 13 of the 16 deaths were in the same category.

(*e.*) In the Harsud poor-house 21 out of 47 were foreigners.

Famine Relief Works.

(*f.*) Renka—948 out of 2,634 known to be foreigners.

(*g.*) Jaiswari—No returns.

(*h.*) Manjrod—74 per cent. reported to be foreigners. (Deaths during June 32, out of 44, foreigners.)

(*i.*) Kalimachak, 28th July, 1900—184 out of 331 found to be foreigners on closing the camp.

KITCHENS REPORTED ON BY HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS.

(*j.*) Mundi Circle, said to have no foreigners, and yet when the Deputy Commissioner recently checked the deaths in two villages of this Circle, he elicited the following results :—

VILLAGE MUNDI.—Nominal population 2,121, June, 1900

Domicile.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Mundi Khas	8	7	15
Apparently Nimaris	14	24	38
Apparently outsiders (non-Nimaris) ...	26	23	49
Total	48	54	102

i.e., 49 foreigners out of a total of 102. The Police had returned 7 out of 103 (1 more than the Deputy Commissioner's verified number).

VILLAGE SIWARIA.

Domicile.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Siwaria Khas	4	5	9
Outsiders (non-Nimaris)	—	11	11
Total	4	16	20

i.e., 11 foreigners out of 20, the Police having returned none out of 19 deaths (1 less than the Deputy Commissioner's number).

The same villages for 18 days of July, as verified by the Deputy Commissioner show—

MUNDI.

Domicile.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Mundi Khas	—	3	3
Apparently Nimaris	—	17	17
Apparently outsiders (non-Nimaris) ...	1	16	17
Total	1	36	37

i.e., 17 foreigners out of 37 deaths.

SIWARIA.

Domicile.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Siwaria Khas	1	3	4
Outsiders (non-Nimaris)	4	1	5
Total	5	4	9

i.e., 5 foreigners out of 9 deaths.

The police returns for the same period showed no foreign deaths in the whole of the Mundi Circle out of their total of 156, and yet the Deputy Commissioner ascertained, by personal verification, that in two villages alone, 22 deaths out of 46 were in this category. Can there be any doubt that if the same test were applied to a larger area, similar results would be obtained? To my mind there is none.

(*k.*) Pandhana—101 admitted foreigners out of 2,035.

(*l.*) Further, Mr. Pasley, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, reports that 20 per cent. of persons fed at kitchens in his circle (Khandwa) are foreigners, and that in checking returns in villages, he finds that out of every three or four deaths, two are non-Nimaris; and yet for the past two months the Police have shown only 7 per cent. of the total mortality as foreign. I am convinced that the truth is nearer 30.

(*m.*) Harsud, which is known to be the most distressed tahsil in the district, but in which there are few foreigners, gives only the average mortality of Nimar.

(*n.*) Some indication, too, of the presence of foreigners is seen in the comparatively low percentage of mortality of children under five years of age. Although the district is severely distressed, the percentage of deaths of children within this age-limit has mostly been under the average of the eight previous years, *e.g.*, only 30·47 in June and 42·15 in May, against a previous eight years' average of 48·14. This must, I think, be ascribed to the comparative preponderance among wanderers of adults and older children. Otherwise, the reverse result should have been obtained, for experience elsewhere has shown that famine tells most severely on young children.

(*o.*) Finally, under this heading, I would point out that there are at present in the Nimar District some 86,000 persons on relief, which, on the deduced population, gives a percentage of over 30. As the census percentage of field and general labourers, the class that would be principally affected, is only 18·7, it is difficult to account for such an enormous proportion, unless on the supposition of a great increment to the population from immigration and the influx of foreigners, in my opinion especially the latter.

4. Passing to point III.—the general unhealthy character of the season as contributing to the high mortality. This appears to me to require little or no demonstration, and the subject has been alluded to in several of the printed famine monthly reports. Last year's rainfall in the Nimar District was both absolutely and relatively the shortest in the Province, and, as one of the

results, the scarcity of water alone was sufficient to lay the foundation of an abnormal amount of sickness. The influence of this cause has lately been shown in a striking manner by the immunity from cholera which the workers at the relief camps, where a tight hold was kept over the water-supply, enjoyed compared with the residents of the surrounding villages. But it is not with regard to this disease only that the importance of a pure supply is recognised. Where the people are compelled, as many were, to drink from any available source, however foul, the prevalence of other affections, and especially bowel-complaints, is inevitable.

5. Point IV.—the prevalence of famine in the district. This has of course been the *fons et origo mali*, for without famine, or the conditions which produced it, the causes which I have alluded to under II. would certainly, and those under III. probably, not have arisen. Relief measures have been instituted on a most generous scale, and I believe that, at this moment, a hungry man need hardly go two miles for a good meal. Although no doubt thousands of lives have thus been saved, the result, as affecting the death-rate, has, if my deductions are correct, to some extent been counterbalanced by the crowds of foreign starving wanderers whom they have attracted. The Deputy Commissioner writes that "no general deterioration in the physical condition of the people has been noticed," and this statement accords with my own observation of several thousands whom I saw attending a fair during my visit to Khandwa.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

MONTHLY REPORTS.

No. 31.

Summary for the five weeks ending 31*st March* 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—The several private charitable institutions mentioned in the previous months' reports continued their operations. One cheap grain shop was opened at Poona during the month under report. In several districts relief was given to deserving persons out of private charity funds raised locally; 7,462 persons were thus relieved in the Surat District, 200 in the Poona District and 698 in the Thar and Párkar District. The districts of Panch Mahâls, Ahmednagar and Sholâpur received during the month under report grants of Rs. 500, Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 10,000, respectively, from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund, which were mainly devoted to providing clothes for such of the relief workers, inmates of poor-houses and kitchens and recipients of village doles as were in need of them, to relieving respectable destitute persons, and to supplementing hospital comforts at relief camp hospitals. Similar relief was also given in the Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts out of the grants received from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 371 villages in Ahmedabad, 530 in Kaira, 115 in the Panch Mahâls, 412 in Broach, 343 in Surat, 10 in Thána, 1,848 in Khándesh, 670 in Násik, 1,274 in Ahmednagar, 1,619 in Poona, 704 in Sholápur and 4 in Thar and Párkar. Two poor-houses were opened during the month under report in the Poona District, and one was started at Surat by the Municipality of that town.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month under report 209 relief works under the Public Works Agency, besides three Local Fund and Municipal works and seven test works. The works were of the same character as reported in the preceding month. Useful works, consisting of tank excavation, road construction or earth-work for railways, are being substituted wherever possible for metal-breaking works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The condition of people on relief works and of the children in kitchens was generally good, but there were outbreaks of cholera in several camps in Násik and Khándesh. The condition of the people in the villages was on the whole fairly good. Deterioration is however reported among the aboriginal tribes in Northern Gujarát and Khándesh, whom it is very difficult to induce to resort to relief works in spite of specially lenient treatment. Special measures on the lines indicated by the Famine Commission have been taken for the relief of these classes. Since the close of the month under report severe outbreaks of cholera have been reported from the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahâls.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—Attention is requested to the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay. Further inquiry is being made regarding the high mortality in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Panch Mahâls, Surat, Khándesh and Ahmednagar Districts and about the deaths attributed to starvation in those districts and in Thána and Násik, and the result will be separately reported.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on relief largely increased during the month under report. The daily average in the last week of the month was 1,308,843, as compared with 1,167,177 in the corresponding week of the preceding month. The arrangements for relief have been made as efficient as possible, but the gravity of the situation is greatly enhanced by the increasing scarcity of water and spread of cholera. The mortality among cattle is estimated to be from 50 to 60 per cent. in Kaira, and only about 20 or 30 per cent. are expected to survive the hot season. In Northern Gujarát and Khándesh as a whole the proportion of survivals may be below this estimate. Measures have been taken to assist the cultivators as far as possible by means of takávi advances or from Charitable Funds to purchase cattle required for tillage, and to keep them informed of the places where plough bullocks are available for purchase. Experiments have been recently made by the Deputy Director of Agriculture in this Presidency to adapt bullock power tillage implements for use by manual labour, and the instructions drawn up by him on the subject have been widely circulated among landholders.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 32.

Summary for the four weeks ending 28th April, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from private charity funds raised locally was continued in several districts during the month under report. The following allotments to the districts named were made from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund:—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Mahals	1,000
Broach	5,000
Khándesh	90,980
Násik	35,000
Ahmednagar	37,000
Sholápur	76,000
Sátára	10,500

The Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts also received grants from the Fund. Arrangements have been made to provide out of these grants seed, bullocks, and cheap fodder for the poorer agriculturists. In the Kaira District a large quantity of Government grass was sold to cultivators at the rate of Rs. 2 per 1,000 lbs., the difference between this amount and the price of Rs. 10 charged by Government being made up from the Famine Relief Fund. Mr. Ratansi Mulji and certain other gentlemen of Bombay supplied food for a poor-house at Pokhran, near Thána, which was specially opened for such of the famine-stricken

immigrants from Gujarát and Káthiáwár into Bombay as were incapable of work, the able-bodied being employed on two works opened in the vicinity. One poor-house under private agency was also opened in Broach.

(b.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 311 villages in Ahmedabad, 547 in Kaira, 180 in the Panch Mahál, 413 in Broach, 549 in Surat, 26 in Thána, 1,445 in Khándesh, 416 in Násik, 1,233 in Ahmednagar, 1,982 in Poona, 702 in Sholápur, 143 in Sátára, 670 in Bijápur, and 3 in Thar and Párkar. More poor-houses were opened in the districts of Kaira, Broach, Násik, Ahmednagar, Khándesh, and Sholápur.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—Besides works of the character described in previous reports, ballast collection for railways is being undertaken wherever possible.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—There were outbreaks of cholera in all districts of Gujarát and the Deccan except Poona, both in relief camps and poor-houses and in villages. The physical condition of the people was generally good.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—Attention is requested to the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay. Further inquiry is being made regarding the high mortality in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Panch Mahál, Surat, Ahmednagar, Khándesh, Násik, and Sholápur Districts, and about the deaths attributed to starvation in the Ahmedabad, Panch Mahál, Surat, Thána, and Násik Districts, and the result will be separately reported. It will be observed that the death-rate was higher than in March in all the Gujarát districts except Broach. The decrease in that district was probably due to the departure of immigrants owing to the temporary reduction of wages.

(f) *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The daily average numbers on relief rose from 1,308,843 in the last week of March to 1,352,163 in the corresponding week of April. The situation became considerably more serious during the month under report owing to violent outbreaks of cholera, especially in Gujarát, Khándesh, and Násik. The supervising staff of the affected districts, both medical and other, has been largely increased to assist in checking the spread of the disease, and to deal with those people who have fled from the works on account of it. Village and poor-house relief is being at the same time largely extended. Steps have been taken to prepare suitable programmes of works for the rains, so as to admit of the concentration of famine labour on large relief works, and also of the provision of work as far as practicable nearer the homes of the agricultural population to afford them facilities to resume tilling operations.

(i) *Rates of Wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 33.

Summary for the four weeks ending 26th May, 1900.

(a.) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund and from other private funds was continued in the several districts during

the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Mahâls	17,500
Násik	20,000
Sholápur	50,000
Sátára	12,000

Additional allotments were also made in the Broach, Khándesh and Ahmednagar Districts, which brought the total amounts received from the Fund in those districts to Rs. 81,000, Rs. 2,37,000 and Rs. 2,02,000, respectively. In the Ahmedabad District during the month of April last Rs. 7,030 were spent from charitable funds in assisting 11,762 persons by gifts of clothing or blankets or in other ways. In the Násik District the expenditure from such funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 5,374, of which Rs. 3,641 were for purchasing seed and bullocks for the poorer agriculturists. Relief was also given by Missionary institutions in the Kaira and Násik Districts.

(b.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 529 villages in Ahmedabad, 553 in Kaira, 197 in Panch Mahâls, 416 in Broach, 581 in Surat, 75 in Thána, 1,075 in Khándesh, 497 in Násik, 1,357 in Ahmednagar, 1,066 in Poona, 718 in Sholápur, 315 in Sátára, 1,015 in Bijápur and 4 in Thar and Párkar. Nine additional poor-houses were opened in the Khándesh district, and one in each of the districts of Surat, Poona, Násik and Bijápur. There was a large increase in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of May being 154,576 as compared with 111,705 in the corresponding week of April.

(c.) *General character of relief works.*—The general character of the relief works in progress during the month under report was the same as that described in previous reports ; 188 relief works under the Public Works Agency were in progress during the month, and 28 under Civil Agency or local bodies.

(d.) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera in an epidemic form prevailed during the month throughout Gujarát and in several of the Deccan Districts, and accounted for a considerable part of the enormous mortality in several districts. Owing to the outbreak of this disease large numbers of people fled from the works and poor-houses in a panic. Probably many deaths amongst them which were really due to cholera have not been attributed to that cause. The Medical Staff and supervising establishments were largely increased, and search parties were organized to pick up the incapable and send them to poor-houses or put them on dole. By the end of the month the epidemic had been brought under control and the mortality from it had greatly diminished. The inquiry by the Sanitary Department regarding the causes of the high mortality has not yet been completed.

(e.) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay. Further inquiry is being made about the deaths attributed to starvation in the Panch Mahâls and Surat Districts. The deaths in the Ahmedabad City attributed to starvation are almost invariably those of wanderers, and the antecedent circumstances are not known.

(f.) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Owing to the cholera scare the numbers on relief works decreased from a daily average of 1,240,458 in the last week of April to 1,035,910 in the last week of May. On that account gratuitous relief was gradually expanded. Since the close of the month confidence has been restored, and people have begun to return to the works in large numbers. Otherwise the general situation has not up to date much improved. Some rain has fallen in the affected districts of the Deccan and Karnátak, which has had the effect of drawing away some people from the relief works for resumption of agricultural operations. The almost total absence of rain in Gujarát, however, is causing grave anxiety, and the numbers on relief in that Province are largely increasing.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 34.

Summary for the five weeks ending 30th June, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund and from other private funds was continued in the several districts during the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Mahâls	1,15,300
Surat	10,000
Khándesh	2,26,147
Násik	1,15,000
Sholápur	45,000
Sátára	60,000

Additional allotments were also made in the Broach and Ahmednagar districts, which brought the total amounts received from the fund in those districts to Rs. 1,46,250 and Rs. 3,70,000, respectively. In the Násik district the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 32,213, of which Rs. 26,268 were for purchasing seed and bullocks for the poorer agriculturists. In the Ahmedabad district during the month of May last Rs. 2,650 were spent from charitable funds in assisting 3,463 persons by gifts of clothing and blankets, or in other ways. Relief was also given by Missionary institutions in the Kaira, Panch Mahâls, and Ahmednagar districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 683 villages in Ahmedabad, 564 in Kaira, 566 in Panch Mahâls, 414 in Broach, 618 in Surat, 1,444 in Khándesh, 511 in Násik, 1,359 in Ahmednagar, 1,109 in Poona, 707 in Sholápur, 554 in Sátára, 1,186 in Bijápur and 14 in Thar and Párkar. Two additional poor-houses were opened in the Násik district, and one in each of the districts of Thána, Poona, Sátára, and Bijápur. There was a considerable increase in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of June being 270,102 as compared with 154,576 in the corresponding week of May. Several village kitchens have been opened in Broach, Násik, and Ahmednagar.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—The general character of the relief works in progress during the month under report was the same as that described in previous reports. There were in progress during the month 208 relief works under the public works agency and 66 under civil agency or local bodies.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—During the month under report cholera prevailed with more or less virulence in the affected districts and contributed largely to the high mortality. The continued absence of rain is pressing very hardly on the people of Northern Gujarát, and the numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief are fast increasing.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay. Further inquiry has been made about the deaths attributed to starvation in the Khándesh and Násik districts.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds largely increased during the month, the daily average number during the last week of June being 1,416,036, as compared with 1,190,486 in the corresponding week of May. The rainfall up to date has been generally sufficient for agricultural purposes throughout the Deccan and Karnátak and in Khándesh and Surat, and the present prospects in these tracts are fair or good. In the affected districts of Northern Gujarát the situation has become intensely grave, as the rainfall which only began in the second week of July in a few places did not continue or extend to other parts. Ploughing and sowing operations are at a stand-still, and if rain holds off for another fortnight there will be no kharif crop. Even fairly well to-do cultivators are reported to be at the end of their resources, and the cattle which were saved with difficulty, and newly imported bullocks, are perishing.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 35.

Summary for the four weeks ending 28th July, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund, and from other private funds, was continued in the several districts during the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Mahals	18,000
Broach	30,000
Surat	15,000
Khándesh	59,008
Násik	78,100
Ahmednagar	45,000
Sholápur	32,000
Sátára	2,500

In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 76,433, of which Rs. 74,829 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer agriculturists. Relief was also given by Missionary Institutions in the Panch Maháls and Ahmednagar Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 776 villages in Ahmedabad, 569 in Kaira, 597 in the Panch Maháls, 415 in Broach, 643 in Surat, 118 in Thána, 1,404 in Khándesh, 749 in Násik, 1,362 in Ahmednagar, 1,125 in Poona, 713 in Sholápur, 743 in Sátára, 76 in Belgaum, 777 in Bijápur, and 16 in Thar and Párkar. One additional poor-house was opened during the month under report in the Thána District, two in each of the districts of Násik and Sátára, and three in Bijápur. Considerable increase occurred in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of July being 469,078, against 270,102 in the corresponding week of June. Several village kitchens were opened in the Kaira District during the month.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—The general character of the relief works in progress during the month under report was the same as that described in previous reports, except that several of the tank works had to be closed owing to the rise of water in the tank beds caused by more or less heavy rain. There were during the month in all 288 relief works in progress, of which 196 were under the Public Works Agency, and 92 under Civil Agency or local bodies.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—During the month under report cholera was prevalent in all the affected districts, and in most of them the total death-rate was higher than in the previous month.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying special death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Generally sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues on a large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—There was considerable increase in the numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds during the month under report, the daily average number during the last week of July being 1,611,420, as compared with 1,416,036 in the corresponding week of June. The increase was especially large in the districts of Northern Gujarát, where rain continued to hold off till the last week of the month. Since then there has been ample rain, and the general situation has materially improved. Agricultural operations, which were at a standstill, have now been far advanced in those districts, and the prospects of the kharif crop will be assured if there is another good fall of rain in a week or two. The kharif crops in the rest of the affected area are in excellent condition except in some tracts of Bijápur, where more rain is urgently needed. The difficulty as to the supply of water, both for man and beast, has ceased altogether throughout the affected area. Green grass is now available almost everywhere, and the condition of cattle is improving. Large amounts, both from takávi allotments and from charitable funds, have been advanced to cultivators for plough-cattle and seed, and for subsistence while engaged in cultivation, and every other practicable measure is being taken to enable them to resume their usual occupations.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages.

No. 36.

Summary for the four weeks ending 25th August, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund and from other private funds was continued in the several districts during the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Mahâls	36,500
Broach	40,000
Surat	15,000
Khándesh	12,000
Násik	9,000
Ahmednagar	12,000
Sholápur	29,000
Sátára	9,000
Belgaum	3,300

In the Násak District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 83,321, of which Rs. 65,068 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer cultivators. Rs. 62,021 out of the same funds were similarly disbursed in the Poona District. In the Ahmedabad District during the month of June last Rs. 40,802 were spent from the charitable funds in assisting 6,367 persons by gifts of clothing or in other ways. An amount of Rs. 5,000 was received from the Americo-Indian Relief Fund in aid of the scheme of relief to distressed weavers in Sholápur. Relief was also given by Missionary Institutions in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, Panch Mahâls, Ahmednagar, and Poona Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 761 villages in Ahmedabad, 570 in Kaira, 598 in the Panch Mahâls, 315 in Broach, 642 in Surat, 114 in Thâna, 1,641 in Khándesh, 1,032 in Násik, 1,362 in Ahmednagar, 1,095 in Poona, 714 in Sholápur, 956 in Sátára, 774 in Bijápur, 80 in Belgaum, and 15 in Thar and Párkar. Two poor-houses were closed in the Ahmedabad District during the month under report ; one additional poor-house was opened in Kaira, two in Khándesh, and fifteen in Bijápur. There was a further increase in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of August being 553,338 against 469,078 in the corresponding week of July.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There is no material change in the general character of relief works in progress. In the Broach District several minor road works have been substituted for tanks and other large works, which it is not found possible to carry on in that district during the rainy season. Twenty-two small works under Civil Agency for the employment of cultivators near their homes were started in the several affected districts during the month under report.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera accounted for fewer deaths in the month under report than during the previous month, but the general death-rate continued high in all districts, and in the Panch Mahâls, Khándesh, and Poona, it was higher than in July.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Generally sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains continues on a fairly large scale in the affected districts.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The general condition of the affected area materially improved during the month under report. The rainfall in Northern Gujárat, although late in the season, was in excess of the average, and generally well distributed, thus enabling kharif sowings to be pushed on vigorously. The standing crops are flourishing throughout the affected area, except in the eastern tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak, where the prolonged break in the rains since the middle of August proved injurious to the crops, especially in light soils. Good rain has, however, been recently reported from several tálukas where it was most wanted, and the prospects are a great deal better than they were at the end of the month under report. The numbers on relief of all kinds fell from a daily average of 1,611,420 in the last week of July to 1,282,192 in the corresponding week of August.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages. The average rates of jowári and bájri for the affected districts during the month of August were 18 lbs. and 15·6 lbs. to the rupee against 17·2 lbs. and 14·8 lbs. respectively in the month of July, which shows that the prices show a tendency to fall.

No. 37.

Summary for the five weeks ending 29th September, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund and from other private funds was continued in the several districts during the month under report. The following additional allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported from the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls	10,000
Broach	10,000
Surat	3,000
Khándesh	71,000
Násik	9,000
Ahmednagar	17,000
Sátára	15,000
Belgaum	1,000

In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 13,632, of which Rs. 7,912 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer cultivators. Rs. 33,350 out of the same funds were disbursed in the Poona District. Relief was also given by Missionary Institutions in the Panch Maháls, Ahmednagar and Poona Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 670 villages in Ahmedabad, 567 in Kaira, 566 in the Panch Mahâls, 415 in Broach, 540 in Surat, 147 in Thâna, 2,015 in Khándesh, 812 in Násik, 1,361 in Ahmednagar, 1,155 in Poona, 717 in Sholápur, 1,033 in Sátára, 862 in Bijapur and 81 in Belgaum. Three additional poor-houses were opened during the month under report in the Ahmedabad District, and one in each of the districts of Kaira, Khándesh and Bijápur. There was a decrease in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of September being 461,359 against 553,338 in the corresponding week of August.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There is no material change in the general character of relief works in progress. Seventy-one small works under Civil Agency for the employment of cultivators near their homes were started in the several affected districts during the month under report. Four new large works were also opened, while forty-five such works were closed during the same period.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera was prevalent in all the affected districts during the month under report, though to a less extent than in the previous month. The general death-rate declined in all the districts, and in Sholápur, Satára and Bijapur it nearly approached the normal. As even in normal years fever is very prevalent in Gujarát in September and October, rural hospitals with travelling dispensaries attached to them were established during the month under report at convenient centres for the distribution of medicines as well as of milk and Mellin's food in the surrounding villages.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains continues on a fairly large scale in the affected districts.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on relief of all kinds fell from a daily average of 1,282,192 in the last week of August to 888,514 in the corresponding week of September. The rainfall in Gujarát was generally sufficient for the kharif crops, which were doing well at the end of the month under report, but more rain was then required for maturing the crops, especially rice, bávto and kodra, and for rabi sowings, and very little has since fallen. In the Deccan and Karnátak generally the rainfall of the month was much below the average, and the standing kharif crops in interior soils withered in consequence and rabi sowings were retarded. In the Karnátak, however, good or moderate rain has fallen in most tálukas since the close of the month, reviving to some extent the withering crops and enabling some progress to be made with rabi sowings. The Deccan districts on the other hand during the first three weeks of October have had little or no rain and good falls are urgently required, especially in Sholápur, the greater part of Ahmednagar, and in the eastern portions of Poona and Sátára. The present situation is becoming critical in the tracts of the Deccan mainly dependent on rabi crops: apprehensions have been expressed by the local officers that if sufficient rain does not fall at an early date there will be severe scarcity of water, especially in Sholápur and parts of Ahmednagar.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There were no material fluctuations in the prices of the staple food-grains or the rates of wages. The tendency of prices to fall continues, but the decline is very slow. The average rates of jowári and bájri for the affected districts during the month of September were 18·6 lbs. and 16·7 lbs. to the rupee against 18 lbs. and 15·6 lbs., respectively, in the month of August.

No. 38.

Summary for the four weeks ending 27th October, 1900.

(a) *Private Relief.*—The following additional allotments were received from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund during the month under report in the districts named—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Mahàls	40,000
Broach	50,000
Khándesh	12,228
Ahmednagar	12,000
Sholápur	14,000
Sátára	14,000

In the Ahmedabad District during the months of July, August and September last, Rs. 249,011 were spent from the charitable funds in assisting 49,555 persons by gifts of clothing, grants of seed and cattle, or in other ways. In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month under report amounted to Rs. 14,566, of which Rs. 10,557 were devoted to providing the poorer cultivators with the means to cultivate their lands. Rs. 16,600 out of the same funds were similarly disbursed in the Poona District. Missionary Institutions also afforded relief in the Ahmednagar, Poona and Sholápur Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was largely contracted during the month under report in the Districts of Ahmedabad, Surat, Khándesh, Násik, Poona, Sátára and Bijápur, and to a less extent in Kaira, Panch Mahàls and Thána. Two poor-houses were closed in each of the Districts of Ahmedabad, Thána and Poona, and one in each of the Districts of Kaira, Panch Mahàls, Broach and Ahmednagar. The daily average number of persons relieved in poor-houses and in villages in the last week of October was 235,555 against 461,359 in the corresponding week of September.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—Fifty large works in charge of the Public Works Department were closed during the month under report, while 11 small works under Civil Agency were opened in the several affected districts for the employment of cultivators near their homes. There were in progress during the last week of October 88 large works in charge of the Public Works Department, besides 41 small works under Civil Agency and one such work under Municipal Agency. Of the 88 large relief works, 2 were railway earth-works, 24 tank works, 6 works of excavation of canals, 30 works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and 26 metal collection works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people on relief works and in villages showed improvment in most districts. Cholera declined considerably and existed nowhere in an epidemic form, but fever largely prevailed in the Northern districts of Gujarát. The general death-rate fell in all the affected districts, except Ahmedabad and Broach. In Ahmednagar, Násik, Poona, Belgaum and Bijápur it nearly approached the normal, while in Sholápur and Sátára it was below the normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains into the affected districts continues as before.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—There was a considerable decrease in the numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds during the month under report, the daily average number during the last week of October being 407,883 as compared with 888,514 in the corresponding week of September. There was no rain in Gujarát and the Northern Deccan during the month under report, while in the Southern Deccan light to fair showers fell in the last week, which refreshed the withering crops to some extent. In the Karnátak the rainfall, though much below average, was sufficient in many places to revive the withering crops, and to allow of rabi sowings being continued. Since the close of the month moderate showers fell in parts of Sholápur, Sátára, and Bijápur. The outturn of the early kharif crops, which are being harvested, is likely to be much below the average and previous expectations, while the late sown kharif and young rabi crops are already withering over a large part of the affected area. Sowings have been retarded for want of rain over more than half of the total rabi area in Gujarát and over one-third of the area in the Deccan and Karnátak. Unless the situation is relieved to some extent by unexpected rain, the prospects are not encouraging, and it is apprehended that relief operations will have to be continued on a more or less large scale in several of the affected districts. The numbers on relief have already begun to increase in some districts, and especially in Sholápur. The apprehensions of water scarcity expressed by the District Officers in Sholápur and Ahmednagar are likely to be realised, but every endeavour is being made to husband the supply from existing sources, while old wells are being deepened and new wells constructed.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There was a material fall in the prices of the staple food-grains in Gujarát and the Deccan, while they rose slightly in Bijápur and Belgaum. The average rates for jowári and bájri for the affected districts fell from 18·6 lbs. and 16·7 lbs. per rupee in the month of September to 19·2 lbs., and 20 lbs. respectively. The prices of both these grains are however exceedingly high for the time of year. The wages on relief works were lowered in proportion to the fall in prices.

No. 39.

Summary for the four weeks ending 24th November, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was continued in the several districts during the month under report. An additional allotment of Rs. 527 from the Fund was received in the Khándesh District. In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month amounted to Rs. 13,637, of which Rs. 8,325 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer cultivators. Rs. 4,700 out of the same funds were disbursed in the Poona District. Relief was also given by Missionary Institutions in the Ahmednagar and Sholápur Districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 271 villages in Ahmedabad, 120 in Kaira, 569 in the Panch Maháls, 415 in Broach, 69 in Thána, 1,035 in Khándesh, 210 in Násik, 1,168 in Ahmednagar, 408 in Poona, 719 in Sholápur, 357 in Sátára, and 536 in Bijápur. Eleven poor-houses were closed in Khándesh, 5 in Násik, 4 in Kaira, 3 in Sátára, 2 in Broach and 1 in each of the Districts of Ahmedabad, Panch Maháls, Ahmednagar, Poona and Bijápur. There was a decrease in the number of recipients of village and poor-house relief, the daily average number in the last week of November being 97,975 against 235,555 in the corresponding week of October.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the last week of November 51 large works in charge of the Public Works Department, besides 18 small works under Civil Agency. Of the 51 large relief works, one was a railway earthwork, 19 tank works, 5 works of excavation of canals, 16 works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and 10 metal collection works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera disappeared altogether from the affected districts except Bijápur, Belgaum, Poona and Sholápur, where a few sporadic cases occurred. The general death-rate declined in all the districts except Thána, where it was only a small fraction in excess of that of the preceding month. In Surat, Thána, Ahmednagar, Khándesh, and Belgaum it approached the normal, while in Násik, Poona, Sátára, Sholápur and Bijápur it was below the normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains continues on a fairly large scale.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 407,883 in the last week of October to 240,466 in the corresponding week of November. There was no rain in Gujarát during the month under report, but light showers fell in parts of Sholápur and Sátára in the Deccan and in a few places in the Karnátak. Late sown kharif crops have suffered greatly and the unirrigated rabi crops are withering almost everywhere in Gujarát and over the greater part of the Deccan and Karnátak, in several places of which deficiency of water is being already felt. It is now unfortunately certain that famine conditions will prevail to a greater or less extent in most of the affected districts for another season. Agricultural stock are for the present generally in good condition and the supply of fodder is sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—There was a material fall in the prices of the staple food-grains in the affected districts except Sholápur, Sátára and Bijápur, where the decline was not considerable. The average rates for jowári and bájri for the affected districts during the month of November were 21 lbs. and 23·6 lbs. to the rupee against 19·2 lbs. and 20 lbs., respectively, in the month of October.

No. 40.

Summary for the five weeks ending 29th December, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was continued in the several districts during the month under report. In the Násik District the expenditure from charitable funds during the month amounted to Rs. 17,753, of which Rs. 12,411 were for the purchase of seed and bullocks for the poorer cultivators. Rs. 100 and Rs. 234 out of the same funds were spent in the Poona and Khándesh Districts respectively. Relief was also given by Missionary institutions in the Ahmednagar District.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 303 villages in Ahmedabad, 468 in the Panch Maháls, 97 in Broach, 45 in Khándesh, 928 in Ahmednagar, 124 in Poona, 718 in Sholápur, 254 in Sátára, and 657 in Bijápur. Three poor-houses were closed in Broach, two in each of the Districts of Ahmedabad and Bijápur, and one in the Panch Maháls. There was a large decrease in the number of recipients of poor-house and village relief, the daily average number in the last week of December being 36,511, against 97,975 in the corresponding week of November. There were four village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the last week of December 29 large works under the Public Works Department, besides 12 small works under Civil Agency. Of the large works, one was a railway earthwork, 12 tank works, four works of excavation of canals, four works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and eight metal collection works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—There was no cholera in the affected districts, except Poona and Bijápur, where a few sporadic cases occurred. The general death-rate declined in all the districts except Poona, where it was only a small fraction in excess of that of the preceding month and of the normal. In all other districts of the Deccan, and in Bijápur, it was below normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Importation of food-grains to the required extent continues.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—There was a further decrease in the numbers on all kinds of relief, the daily average number in the last week of December being 187,568, against 240,466 in the corresponding week of November. Excepting a few insignificant showers in parts of Ahmedabad during the second week of December, there was no rain in any part of the Presidency. The rain which fell in most of the affected districts since the close of the month was beneficial to some extent to the late-sown rabi plants, but it proved injurious to the early-sown crops which had attained maturity. It was also not sufficient to improve the water supply to any material extent. Agricultural stock are generally in good condition, and the supply of fodder is sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—The prices of staple food grains declined considerably in Gujarát, where they were close to normal, and moderately in the Deccan and Karnátak. The rates of wages, which are regulated according to prices, decreased in proportion.

No. 41.

Summary for the four weeks ending 26th January, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was given in the several districts during the month under report, though to a less extent than before. Rs. 1,600 and Rs. 168 were spent out of charitable funds in the Poona and Khándesh Districts, respectively. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 368 villages in Ahmedabad, 434 in the Panch Mahás, 47 in Broach, 18 in Thána, 63 in Khándesh, 1,095 in Ahmednagar, 110 in Poona, 715 in Sholápur, 241 in Sátára and 709 in Bijápur. One additional poor-house was opened in the Khándesh District, while one poor-house was closed in each of the districts of Ahmedabad and Bijápur. There was a slight increase in the number of recipients of poor-house and village relief, the daily average number in the last week of January, 1901, being 37,297 against 36,511 in the corresponding week of December, 1900. There were five village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the last week of January 26 large works under the Public Works Department, of which one was a test work, besides 25 small works under Civil Agency. Of

the large works one was a railway earthwork, 15 tank works, 4 works of excavation of canals, 3 works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and 3 metal-breaking works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people is reported to be fair to good generally. There was practically no cholera in the affected districts, except Belgaum, during the month under report. The general death-rate declined in all the districts except Násik, and considerably in the Gujarat Districts. In the Panch Mahâls, Broach, Surat, and Belgaum, it approached the normal, while it was below the normal in all the other affected districts, except Ahmedabad, where it was nearly 57 per cent. above the normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected areas.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 187,568 in the last week of December, 1900, to 181,531 in the corresponding week of January, 1901. There has been no material change in the general prospects. Moderate to light rain fell in the affected districts about the middle of the month under report, which partially improved the water supply in a few places, but was generally injurious to the ripening crops. The agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is generally sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*— Prices have fallen to a more or less extent throughout the affected districts and the rates of wages on works have proportionately declined.

No. 42.

Summary for the four weeks ending 23rd February, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was given in the several districts during the month under report. Further allotments, amounting to Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000, were received during the month in the Panch Mahâls and Broach Districts, respectively. Rs. 2,136, Rs. 28 and Rs. 1,500 were spent out of charitable funds in the Broach, Khándesh and Poona Districts, respectively. Rs. 2,983 were also disbursed out of the same funds in the Broach District during the month of January, 1901. In the Ahmedabad Districts during the months of October, November and December, 1900, Rs. 3,74,839 were spent from charitable funds in assisting 72,561 persons by gifts of clothing, grants of seed and cattle or in other ways. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Village relief was given during the month under report in 360 villages in Ahmedabad, 8 in Kaira, 457 in the Panch Mahâls, 20 in Broach, 57 in Khándesh, 1,057 in Ahmednagar, 196 in Poona, 618 in Sholápur, 251 in Sátára, and 880 in Bijápur. One additional poor-house was opened in the Bijápur District, while two poor-houses were closed in the Khándesh District. There was no material variation in the number of recipients of poor-house and village relief, the daily average number in the last week of February being 37,594 against 37,297 in the corresponding week of January. There were seven village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the last week of February 26 large works under the Public Works Department besides 23 small works under Civil Agency. Of the large works one was a railway earthwork, 18 tank works, 3 works of excavation of canals, 3 works of construction of new or improvement of existing roads, and 1 metal-breaking work.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people is reported to be fair to good generally. There was no cholera in the affected districts, except Belgaum, during the month under report. The general death-rate declined in all the districts, except Surat and Ahmednagar, where however the increase was not material. In Surat, Ahmednagar, Násik, Poona and Belgaum it approached the normal, while it was below the normal in all the other affected districts, except Ahmedabad, where it was about 33 per cent. above the normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 181,531 in the last week of January to 176,773 in the corresponding week of February. But the numbers are expected to rise as the hot season advances. The general condition and prospects have improved owing to prices having fallen. to the outturn of crops being better and field employment more extensive in several districts than was at first anticipated. The agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is generally sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—Prices have further fallen throughout the affected districts and the rates of wages on works have proportionately declined.

No. 43.

Summary for the five weeks ending 30th March, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—Relief from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund was given in the several affected districts during the month under report. Further allotments, amounting to Rs. 40, Rs. 16,750, and Rs. 20,000, were received during the month in the Khándesh, Násik, and Ahmednagar Districts respectively. Rs. 4,680, Rs. 16,775, and Rs. 500 were spent out of charitable funds in the several Districts of Khándesh, Násik and Poona. Rs. 30,000 were also allotted in Broach for the purchase of bullocks for distribution among the poorer cultivators. In the Ahmedabad District during the month of January, 1901, Rs. 5,525 were spent from charitable funds in assisting 818 persons by gifts of clothing, grants of seed and cattle, or in other ways. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report the distribution of village dole was commenced in the Districts of Násik, Belgaum and Dhárwár, and was extended in Kaira, Panch Maháls, Broach, Khándesh, Ahmednagar, Poona, and Bijápur. In Sholápur and Sátára the number of villages in which gratuitous relief was given was less than in the preceding month, but in the former district the numbers on dole rose moderately and in the latter they were nearly doubled. In Ahmedabad there was a contraction in the numbers on dole as well as in the area of distribution, mainly owing to the extension of small village works easily accessible to all in need of relief. There were eleven village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District, and several also in the Násik District. Four additional poor-houses or kitchens were opened during the month in the Bijápur District, while one poor-house was closed in each of the districts of Ahmedabad and Khándesh. The numbers in poor-houses and on village dole rose from 37,594 in the last week of February to 48,582 in the corresponding week of March.

(c) *General character of relief works.* There were in progress during the month under report 28 large works, one test-work, and four small works under the Public Works Department, besides nearly 60 small works under Civil Agency. Of the large works one was a railway earthwork, 19 tank works, four works of excavations of canals, and four road works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people is reported to be generally fair to good. During the month under report there was no cholera in the affected districts, except Belgaum and Bijápur, but in Ahmedabad, Surat, Khándesh, Násik, Poona, Sátára and Belgaum plague was more or less prevalent. In all the affected districts except the Panch Maháls the general death-rate showed a slight increase. In the latter district it was less than half the normal, and in Kaira, Broach, Khándesh, Sátára, Sholápur, and Bijápur it was below the normal, while in Surat, Ahmednagar, Násik, and Poona it but slightly exceeded the normal. In Ahmedabad it exceeded the normal by about 30, and in Belgaum by 40 per cent., exclusive of plague.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 176,773 in the last week of February to 208,178 in the corresponding week of March. The increase was neither as large nor as rapid as was anticipated, owing, probably, first to a considerable fall in prices, which still show throughout the affected area a tendency towards decline, and secondly to the existence in abnormally large quantities of grass seeds, roots, and other wild products on which the poorer classes are able to subsist. It is, however, now expected that the exhaustion of such resources as those mentioned above and the return of emigrants will have the effect of bringing people on relief in larger numbers. Agricultural stock are in good condition, and the supply of fodder is sufficient. The water supply still causes anxiety in some places, but on the whole the difficulty is being successfully overcome.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—Owing to further fall in prices of staple food-grains, the rates of wages on works proportionately declined.

No. 44.

Summary for the four weeks ending 27th April, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 35,529 were spent out of Charitable Funds in Khándesh, Rs. 165 in Násik and Rs. 6,350 in Poona. Rs. 4,898 were spent from the same source in the Ahmedabad District during the months of February and March in assisting 1,071 persons by gifts of clothing, by grants of seed and cattle, or in other ways. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District. The districts of Sholápur and Ahmednagar received further allotments of Rs. 1,00,000 and Rs. 85,000 respectively from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report there was a general expansion of village gratuitous relief throughout the affected area, particularly in Kaira, Khándesh and Belgaum. One additional poor-house was opened in Ahmedabad and one in Bijápur. There were twenty-six village kitchens open in Ahmednagar and four in Násik. The daily average numbers in poor-houses and on village dole in the last week of April were 64,347 against 48,582 in the corresponding week of March.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month under report 37 large works, three test-works and four small works under the Public Works Department, besides 13[illegible] small works under Civil Agency and one under Municipal Agency. Of the large works one was a railway earthwork, 22 tank works, 6 works of excavation of canals, and 8 road works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—During the month under report cholera prevailed to a large extent in Dharwár and to a slight extent in Bijápur and Belgaum, and mainly accounted for the increase over normal mortality shown in those districts. In the districts of Gujarát and the Deccan the death-rate was below the normal and generally lower than that in the month of March.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *and* (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 208,178 in the last week of March to 303,817 in the corresponding week of April. The increase, though not so large as was expected, indicates the increasing strain on the resources of those classes of people who ordinarily resort to State relief. Light scattered showers in the first week, and moderate to heavy rain in the last week, of April fell all over the affected area except Northern Gujarát. These and later falls have tended to allay the anxiety about water supply, which is now fairly sufficient over the greater part of the Deccan and Karnátak. Preparation of land for monsoon cultivation is progressing generally and sowing has been commenced in several places. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is generally sufficient. Cattle are being purchased in large numbers out of takávi and Charitable Relief Funds and distributed to cultivators in the Gujarát Districts.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—The prices of staple food-grains showed during the month a general tendency to decline. There were no important changes in the rates of wages.

No. 45.

Summary for the four weeks ending 25th May, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 54,571 were spent out of charitable funds in Khándesh, Rs. 2,295 in Násik, and Rs. 954 in Poona. Missionary institutions continued to give relief in the Ahmednagar District. The following further allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund are reported to have been received in the districts named:—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Mahál...	25,000
Broach	15,000
Khándesh	60,000
Násik	17,500
Ahmednagar	30,000
Sátára	20,000

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report there was a further expansion of village gratuitous relief in all the affected districts except Panch Mahál, Broach, and Dhárwár. Two additional poor-houses were opened in Bijápur and one in Ahmedabad. There were 32 village kitchens open in the Ahmednagar District and four in Násik. The daily average numbers in poor-houses and on village dole in the last week of May were 81,461 against 64,347 in the corresponding week of April.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—During the month under report there were in progress 51 large works under the Public Works Department, besides 145 small works under civil agency. Of the large works, one was a railway earthwork, 25 tank works, 5 works of excavation of canals, 19 road works, and one work of metal collection.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Cholera continued to prevail in Bijápur, Belgaum, and Dhárwár. In all the affected districts the mortality was less than in April, and except in Belgaum and Dhárwár it was also below normal.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *and* (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 303,817 in the last week of April to 381,881 in the corresponding week of May. During the month under report there was fair to heavy rain in the Deccan and Karnátak, except Khándesh, where it was light. Since the end of the month it has been light to moderate and partial until last week, when good rain was reported from several tálukás. In Gujarát there was no rain during the month under report. But since then heavy rain has fallen in the southern coast tálukás of Surat, and during the last few days good falls have also been reported from the northern tálukás of that district, and from several tálukás of Kaira, Ahmedabad, and the Panch Maháls. Preparation of land for kharif crops is generally in progress, and sowing has been commenced wherever moisture is sufficient. Locusts having appeared in parts of Sholápur and Bijápur, collectors of all districts have been instructed to be on the watch, and to lose no time in taking energetic action for their destruction. No serious injury has yet been caused by them. Agricultural stock are in good condition, and the supply of fodder is sufficient. The deficiency of stock in Gujarát and elsewhere is being supplied from takávi grants and charitable relief funds.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report prices of staple food-grains have risen in all the affected districts except Khándesh, Násik, and Belgaum, where they have slightly declined. There were no material changes in the rates of wages.

No. 46.

Summary for the five weeks ending 29th June, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 55,973 were spent out of charitable funds in Khándesh and Rs. 10,380 in Poona. Rs. 64,258 were spent from the same source in the Ahmedabad District during the months of April and May, 1901. The following further allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund were received in the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Panch Maháls	43,000
Broach	40,000
Khándesh	45,330
Ahmednagar	75,000
Sholápur	50,000
Belgaum	12,000

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report there was a further expansion of village gratuitous relief in all the affected districts, except the Panch Maháls and Dhárwár. The increase was particularly noticeable in the Khándesh District, where. owing to the exhaustion of grass seed, mhowra and other resources, a large number of Bhils had to be put on dole while engaged in cultivating their fields. Two additional poor-houses were opened in the Bijápur District and one in each of the districts of Násik and Sátára. Two poor-houses were closed in Khándesh. There were 38 village kitchens open in Ahmednagar and five in Násik. The daily average numbers in poor-houses and on village dole in the last week of June were 119,071 against 81,461 in the corresponding week of May.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—During the month under report there has been no change in the general character of relief works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—In Belgaum and Dhárwár the mortality was above normal, the increase being principally due to cholera and plague. In all the other affected districts the death-rate was below normal, and except in Khándesh it was lower than in May. The physical condition of the people as observed by the inspecting officers has been generally satisfactory.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 381,881 in the last week of May to 477,180 in the corresponding week of June. Except in the southern coast districts of Surat there was practically no rain throughout Gujarát till the 25th June. After that date rain fell in all districts. The distribution, however, was irregular, the rain being plentiful in the south, moderate in the north-east, and deficient in the north-west. After a fortnight's break good falls have again been reported from all parts of Gujarát. During June the western hill tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak received good rain, which has since continued. In the eastern tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak the rainfall of June was deficient. but satisfactory falls occurred during the first half of July and enabled retarded sowings to be resumed. Since that time, however, the rainfall in these tracts has been very light and more is urgently wanted to save the young crops, which are reported to have commenced to wither in some places. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is sufficient. The deficiency of stock in Gujarát and elsewhere has been supplied largely from takávi grants and charitable relief funds.

(i) *Rates of wages.*— During the month under report prices of staple food-grains rose in all affected districts except Dhárwár, where they slightly declined. There were no material changes in the rates of wages.

No. 47.

Summary for the four weeks ending 27th July, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 30,765 were spent out of charitable funds in Ahmedabad, Rs. 5,305 in Khándesh, Rs. 14,365 in Násik and Rs. 19,687 in Poona. An allotment of Rs. 20,520 was received from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund in Khándesh. The sum of Rs. 105 was collected by private subscriptions in Belgaum and was spent in purchasing clothes for the poor in the Athni Táluka.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—The numbers on this kind of relief increased from 119,071 in the last week of June to 156,715 in the last week of July. The districts of Ahmedabad, Panch Maháls, Khándesh, Sátára, and

Belgaum mainly contributed to this increase. On the other hand the numbers decreased in Kaira, Broach, Surat, Poona, and Dhárwár. There were during the month 40 village kitchens in Ahmednagar and seven in Násik.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month 56 works under Public Works Agency and 92 works under Civil agency. There was no change in the character of the works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The death-rate was below normal in all districts of the Northern and Central Divisions and in Bijápur. In Belgaum and Dhárwár the death-rate was above normal, mainly on account of plague. It was higher than in the previous month in Surat, Ahmednagar, Násik, Poona, Sátára, Sholápur, and Bijápur; in other districts it was lower except in Khándesh, where it was the same as in June. The physical condition of the people was generally satisfactory.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—There were no deaths from this cause during the month under report.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 477,480 in the last week of June to 460,478 in the corresponding week of July. The rainfall during the month under report and up to date has been generally satisfactory throughout Gujarát and Khándesh, and in the western hilly tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak. The crops in these tracts are flourishing, but some damage has been caused in a few places by rats, locusts, or other insects. In eastern Deccan and Karnátak on the other hand the rainfall up to date has been below requirements except in a few tálukás, and a part of the area usually devoted to kharif crops has remained unsown, and standing crops in some places have begun to wither. These tracts are, however, mainly dependent on rabi crops.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—The prices of food grains rose in the Panch Maháls, Násik, Belgaum, and Dhárwár districts and fell in Kaira, Broach, and Khándesh during the month under report. In other districts they were almost the same as in the previous month. There were corresponding variations in the rates of wages.

No. 48.

Summary for the five weeks ending 31st August, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 14,728 were spent out of charitable funds in Khándesh, Rs. 5,071 in Násik and Rs. 8,690 in Poona. Rs. 65,268 were spent from the same source in the Ahmedabad District during July, 1901. The following further allotments from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund were received in the districts named :—

District.	Rupees.
Broach	5,000
Khándesh	182
Belgaum	20,000

(*b*) *Village and poor-house relief.*—During the month under report there occurred a gradual contraction of this kind of relief. The numbers relieved in the last week of August were 120,480 against 156,715 in the corresponding week of July. There were during the month 42 village kitchens in Ahmednagar, and eight in Násik.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress during the month under report 49 works under Public Works Department, and 40 works under Civil Agency. There was no change in the character of the works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people was generally satisfactory. The mortality in August was higher than that in July in all the affected districts, except Belgaum and Bijápur, but the general death-rate was below normal, except in Belgaum and Dhárwár. In these two districts the excess over normal was mainly due to plague.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—None.

(f) *and* (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain* —Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 460,478 in the last week of July to 375,930 in the corresponding week of August. The rainfall of the month was deficient in Surat, Broach and Western Kaira, and in the Eastern Deccan and the Karnátak. Elsewhere it was generally sufficient. Since the middle of September good and opportune rain has fallen throughout Eastern Deccan and the Karnátak, and has revived the previously withering kharif crops and enabled rabi sowings to be commenced. In Gujarát, however, there has been practically no useful rain since the end of August, and the rice crop there is withering; other kharif crops are in an unsatisfactory condition and rabi sowing has been delayed. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is sufficient.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of food-grains fell in all the affected districts, except Khándesh and Násik, where they were stationary. There were corresponding variations in the rates of wages.

No. 49.

Summary for the four weeks ending 28th September, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—During the month under report Rs. 1,401 were spent out of charitable funds in Násik and Rs. 5,552 in Poona; Rs. 18,596 were also spent from the same source in the Ahmedabad District during August, 1901.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—There occurred a further decline in the numbers on gratuitous relief except in Poona, Bijápur, and Belgaum. The numbers relieved in the last week of September were 77,381 against 120,480 in the corresponding week of August. One additional village kitchen was opened in Ahmednagar, while six such kitchens were closed in Násik.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress 46 works under Public Works Department and 35 works under Civil Agency. The Baroda-Godhra Chord Railway earth-work was closed during the month. There was no change in the character of relief works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—In all the affected districts except Poona and Sholápur the mortality in September was higher than in August. In Gujarát the high mortality is reported to have been mainly due to seasonal fever. In the Deccan and Karnátak the mortality was nowhere abnormal except in Sátára, Belgaum, and Dhárwár, in which districts plague alone contributed no less than 58, 64, and 74 per cent., respectively, of the total number of deaths. The general death-rate, exclusive of plague, was below the decennial mean except in Broach, Kaira, Belgaum, and Dhárwár, where it was higher.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompaning death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) and (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 375,930 in the last week of August to 293,133 in the corresponding week of September. During the month under report the rainfall was exceedingly short of the average in Gujarát and generally deficient in the Deccan, but generally sufficient in the Karnátak. Since the close of the month good rain has fallen throughout the Deccan and Karnátak, and in Surat and parts of Broach, and has much improved the situation in those tracts. In other parts of Gujarát, owing to the almost total failure of the late rains, the rice crop over large areas is entirely lost, the outturn of other kharif crops is expected to be poor, and there has been no rabi sowing except on irrigated lands. Locusts have also caused serious damage to crops in the districts of Ahmedabad and Kaira. Scarcity of water is also apprehended in northern Gujarát, and steps are being taken to improve the water-supply. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is sufficient

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report, the prices of staple food-grains fell in Ahmednagar, Sholápur, Sátára, and Bijápur; were stationary in Broach, Násik, Poona, and Belgaum; and rose in other districts. There were corresponding variations in the rates of wages.

No. 50.

Summary for the month of October, 1901.

(a) *Private relief.*—Rs. 12,618 were spent out of charitable funds in the Poona District. Rs. 1,570 were also spent from the same source in Ahmedabad in September.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—There was a further contraction of this kind of relief in all the affected districts. The numbers relieved in the last week of October were 50,674, against 77,381 in the corresponding week of September. Three poor-houses in Ahmedabad and three village kitchens in Ahmednagar were closed.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress 37 works under Public Works Department, and 13 works under Civil Agency. There was no change in the character of relief works.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—In all the districts except Broach, Surat, Khándesh, Ahmednagar, and Sholápur, the mortality in October was higher than in September. In Kaira malarial fever, and in Sátára, Belgaum, and Dhárwár, plague mainly contributed to the high mortality. The general death-rate, exclusive of plague, was below the decennial mean except in Kaira, Bijápur, Belgaum, and Dhárwár.

(e) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f) *and* (g) *Food-stocks and Importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 293,133 in the last week of September to 131,632 in the corresponding week of October. Excepting parts of Surat and Broach, which received good falls, there was no appreciable rain in Gujarát during the month of October. No rain has since fallen in any part of that Province, and rats also continue doing damage to crops. The situation

has, therefore, become critical, especially in the northern districts, where the numbers on relief have already commenced to rise. In the Deccan and Karnátak there was generally good rain in October, which benefited the late-sown kharif crops and enabled rabi sowings to be nearly completed in all districts. There has, however, been no useful rain since the end of the month, and the outturn of rabi crops is not expected to be on the whole satisfactory, unless good showers are received within the next fortnight. Locusts appeared in parts of Poona, Sátára, Bijápur, and Belgaum, and caused slight injury to crops. Agricultural stock are in good condition, and the supply of fodder is sufficient. Special measures for the improvement of water supply in Northern Gujarát are being continued.

(i) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of staple food-grains declined in all the affected districts except Ahmedabad and the Panch Mahals, where they rose. There were corresponding variations in the rates of wages.

No. 51.

Summary for the month of November, 1901.

(a.) *Private relief.*—Rs. 400 were spent out of charitable funds in the Poona District.

(b.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—In Nasik, Poona and Satara all gratuitous relief was stopped during the month under report. Two poor-houses in Sholapur and nineteen in Bijapur and twenty village kitchens in Ahmednagar were closed, while two poor-houses were opened in Ahmedabad. The total numbers relieved in the last week of November were 17,728 against 50,674 in the corresponding week of October, but in the three Northern Gujarat districts alone the numbers increased from 3,376 to 4,969.

(c.) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress 16 works under Public Works Department and 6 works under Civil Agency. There was no change in the character of relief works.

(d.) *Physical condition of the people.*—In the districts of Ahmedabad, Broach, Surat, Khandesh, Nasik and Poona the total mortality in November was higher than in October, the excess being mainly due to plague. The general death-rate exclusive of plague was below the decennial mean except in Kaira, Broach, Belgaum and Dharwar.

(e.) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f.) and (g.) *Food-stocks and importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h.) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief fell from a daily average of 131,632 in the last week of October to 42,335 in the corresponding week of November. Light to fair showers fell during the first week of November in the whole of Karnatak and in the South Deccan districts, and proved useful for late kharif crops and for rabi sowing. But there has been no rain since in any district of the Deccan and Karnatak, and standing rabi crops are withering. Gujarat received no rain either in November or since. Late-sown kharif crops which were withering at the end of October have been completely lost in most places, and no rabi crops are expected except in irrigated areas. Rats also have continued to do damage to standing crops. Another period of scarcity has in consequence commenced in Northern Gujarat, and the numbers on relief are increasing. Relief measures

also continue in some parts of the Deccan and Karnatak, where the prospects are unsatisfactory.

(i.) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of staple food grains fell in all the affected districts except Kaira, where they rose. The rates of wages on works varied proportionately.

No. 52.

Summary for the month of December, 1901.

(a.) *Private relief.*—Rs. 3,984 were spent out of charitable funds in the Ahmedabad District during October, 1901.

(b.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Eight village kitchens in Ahmednagar and five poor-houses in Bijapur were closed, while two poor-houses were opened in Thar and Parkar. The total numbers relieved in the last week of December were 18,990 against 17,728 in the corresponding week of November. In the three Northern Gujarat Districts alone the number rose from 4,969 to 8,934.

(c.) *General character of relief works.*—There were in progress 24 works under Public Works Department and 25 works under Civil Agency. In the Panch Mahals the Baroda-Godhra Chord Railway earth-work was re-opened. There was no other change in the character of relief works.

(d.) *Physical condition of the people.*—Except in the Districts of Ahmedabad, Panch Mahals, Khandesh, Nasik and Poona, the total mortality in December was less than in November. In Ahmedabad seasonal fever and in Khandesh, Nasik and Poona plague mainly contributed to the high mortality. The general death-rate exclusive of plague was below the decennial mean in all Districts except Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Belgaum and Dharwar where it was in excess.

(e.) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—These are shown in the accompanying death-rate return submitted by the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay.

(f.) and (g.) *Food-stocks and importation of grain.*—Sufficient.

(h.) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The numbers on all kinds of relief rose from a daily average of 42,335 in the last week of November to 81,768 in the corresponding week of December. There was no rain during the month in any of the affected Districts, but light scattered showers fell about the middle of January 1902 in parts of Gujarat and Ahmednagar. In Gujarat rats have continued to damage the crops on the ground, the area under well-irrigation has in consequence been greatly contracted and distress is likely to be far more intense than was at first anticipated. In Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals the numbers on relief are rapidly rising. In the Deccan and Karnatak also owing to the absence of the November-December showers the rabi outturn is expected to be poor and the demand for relief is likely to increase as the season progresses. Agricultural stock are in good condition and the supply of fodder is generally sufficient.

(i.) *Rates of wages.*—During the month under report the prices of staple food-grains rose in all the affected districts except Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Bijapur, where they declined. The rates of wages varied proportionately.

FINES FOR SHORT WORK.

No. 53.

Abstract of Bombay Public Works Department Circular Memorandum No. 581 *F., dated 9th March*, 1900.

Requesting superintending engineers of divisions to direct all the executive engineers in charge of relief operations to enforce fines for short work as a general rule on certain scales given, the officers and subordinates in charge of relief work being, however, enjoined to so exercise their discretion as to fining, when labourers are working in gangs, as to prevent, so far as possible, honest workers suffering for the fault of others.

NOTE.—The text of the above circular has not been received in the India Office.

No. 54.

No. 2080, *dated Bombay Castle*, 23*rd April*, 1900.

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 3327, dated 26th March, 1900 :—

"I have the honour to submit one or two remarks on the Circular No. F.—581 of 9th instant, issued by the Public Works Department, graduating the fine for short work on relief operations. I trust to be absolved from any suspicion of wishing to cavil at orders, or of anything but a desire to bring to the notice of Government difficulties that occur in practical work.

"2. In most districts a problem of famine work is how to make people do real work with a system of minimum wage, how to stir up the lazy, and how to save the industrious from becoming lazy too.

"3. Now there are yet many honest workers in some districts, 50 per cent of the mass. They generally do from 90 to 110 per cent. of their task. To fine such people nearly 20 per cent. of their wages for 1, 2, or 5 per cent. short work must be demoralizing in effect. For when they realize (as they speedily will) that they are fined the same amount for 99 as for 75 per cent. work they will naturally get slack, and as one of our ablest engineers lately put it, 'having once tasted the sweets of laziness, there is no knowing when they will stop. They will soon drop to 50 per cent.' Thus the general rule will make way for popular deterioration—a peril to my mind more to be dreaded than starvation.

"4. Supposing the work done is 99 per cent., the wages will work out as follows on the basis of 18 lbs. for 1 per cent. of short work :—

Class.	Code of Wages in Pice per Day.	Fine Pice.	Percentage of Fine to Wages.
I.	8	1¼	19
II.	7	1	14
III.	5	1	20

"5. It may be thought that the measurer should give a 'grace mark,' and so prevent such an extreme case. But this is precisely the latitude which a subordinate should not have, for he is sure to use it arbitrarily. I would rather suggest that a

definite margin should be left by the rules, say 90 per cent. and 70 per cent., within which the fine should not be imposed at all. I am informed that a majority of good, willing, honest workers fall slightly below the 100 per cent., and this is also what one would expect. To discourage them by a disproportionate fine will have the reverse effect of what is desired."

Letter from the Collector of Ahmedabad, No. F.—1112, dated 22nd March, 1900 :—

"I have the honour to refer to Government Circular memorandum No. F—581, dated 9th March, 1900.

"2 The way these fines work out with grain at 17 lbs. and 18 lbs. a rupee (the most common prices) is as follows :—

Percentage of work done.		Payments at 17 lbs.	Payments at 18 lbs.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Between 75 and 100 per cent.	Diggers	0 1 9	0 1 6
	Carriers	0 1 6	0 1 6
	Children	0 1 0	0 1 0
Between 50 and 75 per cent....	Men	0 1 6	0 1 3
	Women	0 1 6	0 1 3
	Children...	0 0 9	0 0 9
Below 50 per cent.	Men	0 1 0	0 1 0
	Women	0 1 0	0 1 0
	Children	0 0 9	0 0 9

"3. Thus a woman gets the same (with grain at 17 lbs. the rupee) if she does 50 per cent. or 99 per cent. of the work, while generally men and women get the same and some of the wages are equal to, and others below, the value of the poor-house ration.

"4. Till now the Executive Engineer has had an excellent arrangement by which fines have been nicely proportioned to the amount by which work fell below the standard. If a gang found itself unable to do full work, it was still to their interest to do 90 per cent. rather than 80 per cent., 80 per cent. rather than 70 per cent., and so on, and the excellent work done by the workers which so far has resulted, I believe, in the accomplishment of work at a rate per hundred cubic feet, far below that usual in famines, has been due not only to the personal care of the Executive Engineer and his staff, and to frequent visiting by district and táluka officers, but to those orders issued by the Executive Engineer.

"5. Even taking the orders of the Circular memorandum as they stand, I submit that it is unwise to make no distinction between a worker who does 75 per cent. and one who does 99 per cent of the work, but when the rates work out as I have shown, then I submit that their unsuitability appears still more marked."

Memorandum from the Superintending Engineer, N. D., No. 2283, dated —— March, 1900 :—

"Forwarded with compliments.

"Hitherto on all works the scale of fining has been more nearly proportional to the work executed than now ordered by Government."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 3529, dated 30th March, 1900 :—

"Submitted to Government.

"The undersigned has already ventured to represent his own view in his No. 3327, of 26th March, 1900."

RESOLUTION.—The course suggested by the Honourable Mr. Lely is entirely opposed to the repeated instructions of the Government of India, which have been cordially accepted by this Government, that full tasks should be

strictly enforced as a test of the need of relief. Moreover, it could have no other effect than that of reducing the task. If a rule were passed that full payment should be made for 90 per cent. of the task, precisely the same considerations would affect payment for 89 per cent. as the Honourable Mr. Lely suggests with regard to 99 per cent. It is understood that such a rule was in force in Ahmedabad and Broach, and that full payment was often made when the deficiency was several degrees below the limit of 90 per cent., and this practice is probably among the reasons why the average cost of relief in these districts has been much in excess of that in other districts. It is presumed that the wages due are determined by superior officers, or at least by subordinates of a comparatively high grade, and minute deficiencies may be discarded if the circumstances justify such course, but the principle that the full wage is due for performance only of full task must be enforced as far as possible. There is less risk of demoralization from excess of strictness than from excess of leniency.

2. Government, while desirous that payment between the maximum and minimum should be in proportion to results, are of opinion that with the establishment available to deal with such large bodies of workers as are now employed it is not expedient to attempt more accurate measurements than are required for the scale of payments prescribed in Public Works Department Circular memorandum No. F.–581, dated 9th March, 1900. As the people to whom the scale is applied are paid weekly and not daily, the results mentioned in paragraph 3 of the letter of the Collector of Ahmedabad do not occur. It is also to be observed that the object in view is not to get the work done at low rates, but to exclude people who will not prove their need of relief by doing a fair task for a low wage. For that purpose the scale of payment referred to is not less efficacious than would be one with more gradations.

(Signed) J. MONTEATH,
Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 55.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Famine), No. 1108–28–15–F., dated Simla, the 30th May, 1900.

Public Works Department Circular Memorandum No. 581–F., dated 9th March, 1900.
Famine Department Resolution No. 2080, dated 23rd April, 1900.
Famine Department Resolution No. 2099, dated 25th April, 1900.

The Governor General in Council has read the instructions cited in the margin which have been issued by the Government of Bombay concerning the tasking of famine relief workers and the reduction of wages for short work.

2. In the Resolution, dated the 23rd April, "the repeated instructions of the Government of India" are given as one of the reasons which led the Government of Bombay to reject the proposal of the Commissioner of the Northern Division that a definite margin should be left by the rules within which a fine for short work should not be imposed. In making this proposal that officer went on to say that the majority of good, willing, honest workers often fail to exactly fulfil the prescribed task and that to discourage them by a disproportionate fine was impolitic.

3. The Government of India think it necessary to point out that although in the early stage of the present famine, when the relief population was by all accounts in an exceptionally vigorous and robust condition, they approved and advised a policy of strictness in the matter of enforcing tasks and directed that

"persistent failure to perform the allotted task due to causes other than physical inability" should be rigorously dealt with, they have never rejected the expedient of a margin, such as the Commissioner of the Northern Division has proposed. On the contrary, in paragraph 9 of their Circular Letter* No. 2-Famine, dated 27th December, 1899, they expressed approval of the rules in force in the North-Western Provinces with regard to the imposition of fines for short tasks, which distinctly provide a margin of the kind recommended by the Commissioner of Gujarat. The margin in the North-Western Provinces Code is $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Code, Appendix D—XIV, Rule 45.

4. In the correspondence on the Broach case which gave rise to the Bombay Government's Resolution of the 25th April, 1900, the necessity for some definite rule of clemency to temper the ingrained rigidity of subordinate officials in the Public Works Department is very clearly brought out. And although the literal construction placed by that Department in the Broach district on the Public Works Department Circular of the 9th March has been over-ruled by the Resolution of the 25th April, and permission has been given to overlook "trifling deficiencies" in measurements, it seems to the Government of India doubtful whether this will prove a sufficient guide to the class of officers ordinarily placed in charge of relief works.

5. The condition of the relief works population in the northern districts of the Bombay Presidency, the terribly high death-rates which are now being reported, and the marked decline during the last few weeks in the numbers on relief, give rise to some apprehension lest rigorous tasking may possibly be pushed too far by zealous subordinates. For this reason the Government of India desire to state that, instead of disapproving, they approve of the principle of a definite margin recommended by the Commissioner of the Northern Division.

No. 56.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2554, *dated Bombay Castle,* 15*th June,* 1900.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 1108-28—15 F., dated 30th ultimo, I am directed to request that you will submit to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council the following explanation of the orders of this Government to which reference is made.

2. The Government of India in their letter No. 3 F.—77-1, dated 24th December, 1896, called attention to "the importance of exacting a full task at all stages of relief operations." The tenour of your Circular letter No. 2-FAM., dated 27th December, 1899, was understood to emphasize that view, and in the final paragraph Local Governments were asked to consider whether greater strictness in enforcing the conditions of relief and tests of distress was not required. It appeared therefore to the Governor in Council that the Government of India had repeated instructions that full tasks should be strictly enforced as a test of the need of relief. It was not supposed that the marginal reference to paragraphs 45—47 at pages 131-132 of the North-Western Provinces Famine Code, 1899, was intended as a suggestion that the detailed method of tasking and fining therein prescribed should be generally adopted.

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* See page 439 of Command Paper 205, presented in 1900.

3. Reasons for the adoption of a penal minimum having been given in my letter No. 235, dated 15th January, 1900, it was stated in paragraph 3 of your letter No. 287—28-2 F., dated 8th February, 1900, that "the wish of the Bombay Government is, it is understood, to fix a fair task, the performance of which will entitle the workers to the prescribed wage of 19 chatáks for the digger and 15 chatáks for the carrier respectively, and to reduce the wage proportionally as the work done falls below the prescribed task down to a penal wage of 9 chatáks. This proposal the Government of India consider reasonable, provided the tasks are fair, regard being had to the condition of the people." Instructions were issued accordingly, it being on several occasions explained that the object was to have payment by results as nearly as possible within the maximum and reduced minimum, but this Government have not ceased to enjoin that the tasks should be in proportion to the physical condition of the various classes of people, and that the deficiency of work for which deduction may be made must be due to wilfulness and not to weakness. On some works there was prescribed a table under which the weekly wage might be varied according to every 10 per cent. of outturn, but the professional advisers of this Government considered it impracticable with the establishment available to attempt so much gradation, and the Public Works Department Circular No. F.—581, dated 9th March, 1900, was accordingly issued.

4. This Government have thus, as they understood, with the concurrence of the Government of India, adopted a system which differs from that prescribed in the North-Western Provinces Code. It was considered important that the full wage should be held to be due only for what might reasonably be regarded as the full task, but in Government Resolution No. 2080, dated 23rd April, 1900, as well as in Government Resolution No. 2099, dated 25th idem, it was pointed out that minute deficiencies might be overlooked. A practice which obtained in two districts of prescribing that the full wage should be given if 90 per cent. of the task were done, and of giving the full wage if the outturn was even several degrees lower appeared to be precisely the relaxation of test against which the Government of India had given this Government a caution. The North-Western Provinces Government give the wage for an outturn which may either be some degrees above or below the prescribed task, but a definite rule that the wage should be given for 90 per cent. of the task would be nothing more nor less than a reduction of the task. In the case of metal-breaking, where the individual tasks can be stated in basketfuls, this would be obvious to every worker.

5. I am to add that in the month of April in the district of Ahmedabad, in which the reduction in the number of workers has been greatest, the outturn was 37,329,206 as compared with 39,127,430 cubic feet of the total tasks set, and that the total fines were only about 2 per cent. of the wages earnable, the remainder of the deficiency in work being due to the fact that new-comers are not fined until they are accustomed to the work. These facts indicate in a very clear manner that there is nothing oppressive in either the tasks or in the manner of enforcing them, and that notwithstanding the high mortality in the district, which cannot be in any way attributed to the labour conditions imposed on relief works, there has been no lack of vigour amongst the people employed on works. Similar information is not available for other districts, but the Collector of Kaira states in his last progress report, "On the whole the people in this district are now doing the task without difficulty and resort is had to penal fining in very few cases. On many works the full task is completed and there is no fining at all." The number of relief workers increased largely after effect was given to the Public Works Department Circular No. F.—581, dated 9th March 1900, and the subsequent decrease was due entirely to cholera. Except in the case of Broach and only in the case of very few of the works in that district for two or three of the weeks when a reduced scale of wages was in force the reports of the medical and other inspecting officers on the physical condition of people who have been for some time on the works have been uniformly favourable. The Government of India are aware that there was simultaneously in Broach a decrease in mortality.

6. I am to inquire whether in view of this explanation it is the desire of His Excellency the Governor General in Council that the orders passed by this Government in this matter should be cancelled or modified.

No. 57.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Famine), No. 1317 F. 28-19, dated Simla, the 28th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2554, dated 15th June, explaining the considerations which gave rise to the instructions as to the tasking of famine relief-workers, and the reduction of wages for short work, cited in paragraph 1 of my letter of the 30th May. It is asked whether in view of the explanations the Governor General in Council desires that the orders in question should be cancelled or modified.

2. The main objection taken in your letter to the adoption of a rule prescribing for the guidance of subordinate relief officers a margin within which short work may be overlooked, is that it is likely to result in the virtual reduction of the nominal task. But a rule of a very similar character seems to have been actually in operation in the Ahmedabad district up to the end of March, and according to the collector of that district worked well, and did not result in demoralisation. It seems to the Governor General in Council that if in any district less fortunately situated, or on any particular relief work, the workers are found deliberately to take improper advantage of the rule, the difficulty can readily be met by the temporary suspension of the rule by the controlling district authority, on the specific ground that contumacy and determined idleness have to be dealt with. All that the Governor General in Council had in view was the desirability of preventing misapprehensions on the part of subordinate relief officers similar to that reported in the Broach district, and of giving them a reasonably definite standard of allowances for short work in cases in which neither contumacy nor determined idleness exists. For this class of officers permission to overlook "minute deficiencies," and "variations of one per cent. in measurements," appeared to the Governor General in Council to be insufficiently precise, and is open to the further objection that it contravenes the principle that pay should be proportioned to work. For it is obvious that if a relief-worker is fined to the extent prescribed in the Public Works Circular of the 9th March, 1900, for failing to reach the full task by 2 per cent., the proportional principle to which the Government of India assented, and to which the Government of Bombay rightly attach importance, is seriously violated. Even allowing that there are theoretical objections to the alternate expedient of a "margin," the Governor General in Council considers that in the late stage of a famine of exceptional intensity and destructiveness, and in view of what actually occurred in the Broach district, and of the high mortality prevailing throughout Gujarat, a marginal allowance is both reasonable and politic: and he would be glad to see it recognised as a rule of guidance by the Government of Bombay on their relief works.

Letter No. 1112, dated 22nd March, 1900.

3. In conclusion I am directed to enclose copy of Madras Government Order No. 513, dated 25th May, 1900,* from which it will be observed that the Government of Madras have adopted the principle of a marginal allowance for short work.

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*See page 411 (Madras).

FAMINE FORECASTS FOR THE YEARS 1900-1901 AND 1901-2.

No. 58.

Letter from the Government of India to the Right Honourable Lord George F. Hamilton, His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 4 (Revenue and Agriculture), dated Calcutta, the 24th January, 1901.

We have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter dated 7th January, 1901, from the Government of Bombay, reporting that famine conditions will certainly prevail to a greater or less extent for another season over a large part of the area affected in 1899-1900, and advising us that a direct expenditure on the relief of distress of over one crore of rupees will probably have to be incurred in the next financial year.

2. We deeply regret the disheartening and unfortunate occurrence of a second season of privation and agricultural loss in Western India. The rainfall throughout Northern and Upper India, the Central Provinces, Rajputana and Central India during the last fortnight of December and the first half of January has been exceptionally abundant and widely distributed, and there is every anticipation that good harvests over an exceptionally large area of cultivation will be reaped this spring in the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and in Behar, and that a surplus of food grains for the supply of less fortunate provinces will be secured. In the Central Provinces, Rajputana and Central India, the loss of stock and other agricultural capital has interfered with the ability of the cultivators to take full advantage of the favourable season: but except in a few localities of limited area no recrudescence of distress is anticipated in these regions. A portion of the Madras Presidency has been somewhat affected by the lightness of the north-east monsoon. But the earlier rains provided good irrigation from the tanks, and the general situation gives no cause for anxiety. Our information regarding the Nizam's Dominions is at present imperfect, but it is believed that the crop failure from which the Bombay Deccan is suffering extends to some of the Hyderabad districts. In Baroda the crops now on the ground are 50 per cent. below normal, and distress is anticipated by that State until the next rains.

3. We refrain from offering observations on the last paragraphs of the Bombay Government's letter in which that Government adheres to the view that in determining and apportioning revenue suspensions and remissions it is not advisable to adopt with equity any course other than that which has been hitherto followed in the Presidency, and that there are no practical difficulties in the way of giving satisfactory effect to this policy. The Famine Commission, which is at present engaged in taking evidence in Bombay, has been instructed to report on this subject, and we propose to await its recommendations.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) CURZON.
E. H. H. COLLEN.
A. C. TREVOR.
C. M. RIVAZ.
T. RALEIGH.
E. FG. LAW.

Enclosure in No. 58.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 54, dated Bombay Castle, 7th January, 1901.

In the weekly telegrams and monthly famine reports submitted from this Department the Government of India have been kept informed of the general condition and prospects of the affected area in this Presidency. As it is now unfortunately certain that famine conditions will prevail to a greater or less extent for another season over a large part of the area affected in 1899-1900, I am directed to submit a report on the situation and future requirements.

2. I am to append a statement* of the rainfall of the season of 1900 as compared with the normal at the head-quarters and other selected stations of each of the districts likely to be affected, and to give below a description of the character of the season :—

GUJARÁT.

The entire month of June was rainless with the exception of a few light showers in Surat in the last week and in the Panch Mahál in the second week. Sowings could only be partially commenced in those two districts. In July the total fall was everywhere much below the average except in the southern tálukas of Surat. Rain fell mostly between the 12th and 15th, and kharif sowings were then generally commenced, but they were checked again by the subsequent break and could only be resumed at the close of the month when regular monsoon conditions set in throughout Gujarát. The rainfall in August was widely distributed, heavy and continuous, and improved the situation everywhere. The standing crops were thriving and sowings were in full progress at the end of the month, when a break was generally needed. The rainfall of September exceeded the average in Broach, the Panch Mahál, the eastern tálukas of Surat and Kaira and the Gogha and Modása Petas of Ahmedabad ; elsewhere it was below the average. At the end of the month the kharif crops were doing well, but more rain was required for maturing them, especially rice and the inferior millets bávto and kodra, and also for rabi sowing. During the months of October, November and December there was no rain, and except in a few places during December the customary dews of the cold season also did not fall. The result has been that among the early-sown kharif crops in the three northern districts of Amhedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahál bájri alone will yield a fairly good outturn, while rice and bávto have been almost total failures ; the late-sown kharif crops have partially withered and yielded but little grain ; they are expected however to produse a fair outturn of fodder. In Surat and Broach late-sown jowár and cotton crops will be poor. Rabi crops which have been sown over about 50 per cent. of the total area reserved for them are withering except in irrigated lands.

DECCAN AND KARNÁTAK.

The rainfall in June exceeded the average in the greater part of Sholápur, Ahmednagar, Bijápur and Belgaum, the western tálukas of Dhárwár and the eastern tálukas of Poona and Sátára ; elsewhere it was much below the average. In July the fall was short of the average in Khándesh, Násik and Dhárwár, but in most tálukas of the other districts it was above it. The rain was sufficient and useful for resumption of retarded sowings. These were nearly completed at the end of the month, when more rain was required in the eastern tracts of the Kárnatak. The rainfall of August exceeded the average in Belgaum, the hilly tracts of the Deccan and the western portion of Dhárwár, but in the whole of Bijápur and the eastern tálukas of Dhárwár and the Deccan it was light and

* Printed at page 181.

deficient, and the crops, especially those on light soil in Sholápur, Bijápur, Ahmednagar and the eastern part of Poona, began to suffer. In September the rain was much below the average except in the western hilly tracts of Poona and Sátára. At the end of the month kharif crops were generally good in these tracts and the western portions of Belgaum and Dhárwár and in Khándesh and Násik, but elsewhere they were withering, and rabi sowing was generally retarded. In October there was no rain in Khándesh and Násik, while the districts of Sholápur, Poona and Sátára three tálukas of Ahmednagar and the greater part of the Karnátak received light to fair showers, which refreshed the withering crops to some extent and enabled rabi sowings to be continued. Beyond light scattered showers between the 5th and 7th of November in some places in Sholápur, Sátára and Bijápur there was practically no rain in November and December throughout the Deccan and Karnátak, with result that late-sown kharif crops have suffered greatly everywhere and unirrigated rabi crops are generally withering.

3. It will thus be seen that the almost total failure of the late rains in Gujarát and their deficiency in the Deccan and Karnátak have blighted the hopes which were entertained in August last of a bumper kharif harvest, and have destroyed the chances of obtaining any rabi crops at all except in irrigated lands and a few other favoured tracts.

4. The Commissioner, N., D., in a report dated 12th December, 1900, describes the situation in Gujarát in the following terms :—

"There is reason to fear in many parts of this Division scarcity deepening as the season advances into famine among at least the lower classes. The situation has recently been somewhat improved by heavy dews and would be still further improved in the rabi areas by a fall of rain within this month.

"Owing to the loss of plough cattle the area sown with kharif crops was much below the normal. The proportion sown with rabi is probably still less, owing to the failure of the later rain and to the enervation of the people by fever, dysentery and other diseases which have been remarkably rife.

"Of the kharif crops rice has, with insignificant exceptions, totally failed. Bájri and jowár have done well or ill according to whether the rain began earlier or later, and perhaps also according to the promptitude of the cultivator in getting the seed in. Generally it may be said that early-sown bájri has done well—in some tracts very well. Jowár not so well, the great bulk of this crop being nothing but fodder though looking well in the field to a superficial observer. The other kharif crops vary from about 8 annas in the best parts of Kaira District to nil in the worst parts of the same, in parts of the Panch Mahals and elsewhere. The outturn of cotton is conjectured at 6 annas in Ahmedabad and 4 annas in Vágra and adjacent villages. Elsewhere in the affected areas mentioned below this crop is not grown.

"Rabi would have been good if there had been an inch or two of rain in October or November, but it did not come. Heavy dews often make up for want of other moisture, but they too have been absent till recently. Hence not only is the area very small but except on wells the outturn as it appears at present will be poor.

"The area of British territory in this Division likely to be affected may be thus described :—

Ahmedabad District.—The whole except Daskroi Táluka and Gogha Mahál, parts of Sánand Táluka and other small portions where the kharif has been fair.

Kaira District.—Mátar, Thásra and Kapadvanj Tálukas will be more or less distressed.

Panch Mahals.—The whole district more or less. Probably least in Kálol and most in Jhálod.

Broach.—A portion (say 30 villages) of Ámod Táluka, a portion (say 30 villages) of Jambusar Táluka, 7 'Bara' villages of Broach Táluka and almost the whole of the Vágra Táluka.

Surat.—Western half of Olpád Táluka, eastern half of Mándvi Táluka, sea coast and south-east corner of Bulsár, east and south sides of Párdi.

"Outside these areas there will be much scattered distress which will need limited measures of relief in the hot weather, partly because all over the country some crops have more or less failed, and partly because everywhere a large proportion of the normal area has been left unsown altogether.

"The economic condition of the people throughout the four districts* and the affected parts of Surat is not encouraging. Last year's famine acting upon a peasantry unused to privation has left them enfeebled and dispirited. Many have not had the cattle or else the energy to cultivate land at all. Again the Collector of Ahmedabad writes demi-officially : 'The striking feature of this year's distress will be the large sums of money put into the

*Ahmedabad.
Kaira.
Panch Mahals
Broach.

ground compared with the small returns.' The loss of the milch cattle has been a paralysing blow to people to whom milk in its various forms was the only animal food. In the better parts of Gujarát it was the custom of the well-to-do cultivators to keep large herds of buffaloes and cows and to give the *chás* (whey) away among their poorer neighbours. No one went without. Now in the villages one constantly hears the piteous cry 'when shall we get our *chás*.' Lastly a wave of sickness has lately passed over the country not sparing Europeans and the best fed native classes and still further depressing the general vitality. In my opinion the present condition of the agricultural classes is such as to call for very careful and considerate treatment, especially in those parts of the province detailed above."

In a later special report regarding 108 "Bara" or sea-coast villages of Broach the Commissioner, N., D., states that nearly all the people (including some of the most respectable) are living at present on grass seed, especially an unwholesome variety called "Anchi-banchi," that no kharif crops are sown in this tract, that the prospects of the rabi crops are extremely poor, that the staple jowár has not yet germinated, and that owing to use of bad seed and ravages by insects only 10 per cent. of the sown crop is expected to yield about 8 annas. In a report dated 15th December, 1900, the Collector of Ahmedabad gives the following account of the state of crops in that district :—

"As the supply of grass seeds is failing, doles will have to be increased and works provided soon in the Bhál tracts of Dholka and Dhandhuka, where the one crop of the year, unirrigated wheat and gram, has practically failed. What little remains—roughly half the area sown—is still being eaten up by insects, and the damage already done and still continuing is enormous. The tracts adjoining the Sábarmati (Sánand, Dholka and Daskroi Tálukas) are fairly covered with rabi crops, some of which look moderately healthy in their present stage. The rice crop has failed entirely in most places, but in a few Nalkántha and west Sánand villages there will be a little to harvest. In the Viramgám Chuval the kharif crop has been estimated at 6 to 8 annas, which is fortunate considering that this with the Bhál tract is generally the first to demand relief measures. Paráńtij will not, I learn, be disappointed of all harvest, but Modása has not done very well so far. To sum up, the prospects vary very much from village to village, and while the Bhál and most rice villages have a total failure to face, in other parts the cultivators at least will be able to pull through, and I do not anticipate any great demand for works till the hot weather, when all chance of field labour is over."

In a later report the Collector of Ahmedabad estimates the average outturn of jowári at 5 annas and that of bájri at 6 annas for the entire district.

In Kaira the rice crop is practically a failure as in other parts of Northern Gujarát, while the yield of bájri averages about 11 annas and that of other kharif crops about 4 annas.

5. As regards the Deccan and Karnátak it appears that a continuation of relief measures will be necessary in the whole of Sholápur and Ahmednagar except the Akola Táluka of the latter district, in about three-fifths of Bijápur, the eastern tálukas of Poona, Sátára and Belgaum and parts of Khándesh and Násik. The outturn of crops in these districts as estimated by the collectors is shown below :—

District.	Kharif.	Rabi.
Sholápur... ...	8 annas in 1 táluka, 4 to 6 annas in 3 tálukas, and 2 to 3 annas in 3 tálukas. Average for district 4 annas.	4 to 6 annas in 1 táluka and portion of another. Almost none in other tálukas.
Ahmednagar ...	9 annas in Akola. Average for the rest of the district 6 annas.	None excepting a slight crop in a few scattered places.
Poona	4 to 6 annas in the affected parts of Indápur. Almost complete failure in the affected parts of Sirur, Purandhar, Bhimthadi, and Dhond. Harvest much below normal in the remaining parts of these tálukas. Average outturn in the western portion of the district 10 annas.	Total failure in the affected parts.

District.	Kharif.	Rabi.
Sátára	In Mán, Khatáv and Khánápur an average of 2 annas on high lands and of 4 annas on low lands. In Karád 6 annas and in Khandála 5 annas on the average. In the rest of the district which is not affected 6 to 10 annas in 3 tálukas, 7 annas in 2, and 8 to 12 annas in 1.	Entire failure in the affected parts except where irrigated. Fairly promising in the rest of the district.
Khándesh ...	Outturn expected to be fairly good in eastern Khándesh except in certain limited areas of poor soil. In western Khándesh, except Sháháda and the Dangs, crops have suffered severely over most of the area and the outturn will be generally poor.	Almost total failure except on irrigated lands.
Násik	10 annas on the average in the western half and 6 to 8 annas in the eastern half of the district.	Almost total failure except on irrigated lands. Irrigated crops will probably yield 12 annas in the western half and perhaps 8 annas in the eastern half.
Bijápur	Excepting 117 villages of Bádámi, 87 of Bágalkot, 35 of Sindgi and 12 of Bijápur, where it varies from 7 to 12 annas, the outturn ranges between ½ anna and 5 annas.	From ½ anna to 4 annas except in 15 villages of Bágevádi where it is 6 annas, 58 of Bágalkot where it is from 6 to 10 annas, and 117 of Bádámi where it is 5 annas.
Belgaum	From fair to very good except in the extreme east, where crops have failed badly. The affected portion comprises parts of Athni, Gokák, and Parasgad Tálukas and Murgod Mahál.	Rabi for most part not sown in the affected portion.

It is to be observed that in all the affected tracts of the Deccan and Karnátak the rabi crops are far the more important, but in the current year the early rain induced the sowing of kharif crops in many places to a larger extent than usual.

6. The fodder-supply is everywhere reported to be sufficient, and the quantity available will probably last throughout the season in most districts. On the other hand the water-supply is running short in many places, and as the season advances there is likely to be great scarcity of drinking water for man and beast over a wide area in the Deccan and Karnátak, and in some parts of Gujarát. The deficiency of water will also, it is apprehended, affect seriously the outturn of irrigated crops. In a letter dated 31st October, 1900, the Collector of Sholápur reported as follows :—

> "The depletion of the tanks and wells is everywhere causing anxiety. The Ekruk, Mhasvad, Ashti and Koregaon irrigation tanks are all unprecedently low, and irrigation from all of them has been partially stopped to prevent them from running quite dry. The level of the sub-soil water throughout the whole district is seriously reduced. At Akalkot last week I found the large well from which the town used principally to be supplied, and the bottom of which had not been seen before, quite dry except in one corner, where there were 15 inches of water; there ought to be 25 feet. At Bársi I found the wells threatening to give out, and the big nála, whence water was fetched last year, nearly dry, which does not look well for the chance of getting much water from 'hels'* in it next hot weather. At Bhámburdi one of the main wells which supply the camp is failing, and so it is throughout the district The rain we have just had has been all absorbed by the parched surface soil and has not replenished the springs. In my opinion it is urgently necessary to do all in our power to improve the water-supply now by deepening as many village wells as possible. The prospect of a water-famine is alarming."

* *i.e.*, temporary excavations.

Again, in a letter dated 1st December, 1900, he reports that the level of the sub-soil water has never been so low within living memory. Similar reports have been received from all other districts of the Deccan and Karnátak,

and such expenditure as has been considered necessary for temporary improvement of the water-supply has been authorised in all districts. It is also probable that there will be a large demand for tagái for deepening wells, and some of the collectors have already asked for additional allotments. The total requirements are being ascertained from the Commissioners, and the Government of India will be separately addressed in the matter.

7. The following statement shows the prices of the staple food-grains as they stood in the several districts in the second week of December, 1900, and in the corresponding week of 1899 :—

District.	Jowári.				Bájri.			
	1900.		1899.		1900.		1899.	
	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
Ahmedabad	15	6	9	7	14	11	8	6
Kaira	14	0	9	$2\frac{2}{3}$	15	8	8	$1\frac{1}{7}$
Panch Mahals	15	$13\frac{1}{3}$	9	$5\frac{1}{3}$	13	12	8	4
Broach	13	0	8	$13\frac{1}{3}$	13	2	8	4
Surat	11	8	9	8	12	8	8	1
Sholápur	9	$10\frac{3}{5}$	9	$10\frac{4}{5}$	11	$10\frac{3}{5}$	9	$6\frac{2}{5}$
Ahmednagar	9	$8\frac{4}{9}$	8	$9\frac{1}{7}$	12	0	8	$2\frac{2}{3}$
Poona	11	$4\frac{1}{5}$	9	9	11	$12\frac{4}{5}$	8	8
Khándesh	13	$5\frac{3}{5}$	8	12	12	8	8	8
Násik	9	$10\frac{4}{5}$	9	3	12	$10\frac{3}{5}$	8	8
Sátára	9	$13\frac{2}{5}$	8	15	10	$11\frac{1}{5}$	8	15
Belgaum	11	7	11	0	10	12	9	12
Bijápur	10	1	11	4	12	5	10	5
Dhárwár	11	5	13	0	12	2	—	

It will be seen that both in Gujarát and in the Deccan prices are at present generally considerably lower than they were in the preceding year, but in some districts of the Deccan and Southern Maratha country the difference is not very wide. It is probable that they will again rise when the new grain in the market is exhausted, but they will presumably not reach the level of last year as the harvests in other parts of India have been good, and any deficiency of stock will, therefore, be more readily supplied than it was in that year.

8. In Sholápur, where the demand for field labour has already slackened, people are rapidly returning to the relief works. Thousands of people from this district and from Ahmednagar and Bijápur are also reported to have emigrated to the neighbouring native states and the Berárs in search of field work or other employment, but in a later report the Collector of Ahmednagar states that this emigration is now checked to some extent, and that many of the emigrants are returning disappointed. The Collector of Sátára also reports that an unusually large number of people have left the Mán Táluka of that district in search of work in Bombay, Khándesh and other places. This migration coupled with the fall in prices and the limited area of distress will, it is hoped, tend towards lessening the suffering of the people, but, as remarked by the Collector of Sátára, "the famine of 1899-1900 has told severely on the pockets of nearly all classes, and many persons who are ordinarily in fairly well-to-do circumstances will this year require relief, having last year parted with practically all their surplus wealth, both cattle, jewellery, and cash." Sales of cattle for subsistence have already been reported from parts of Sholápur and Ahmednagar, and the collector of the former district states that in the Karmála and Málsiras Tálukas cattle have been sold by thousands for a song, and in many villages there are hardly any left.

9. The Commissioners have submitted estimates of the numbers likely to require relief from January, 1901, onwards. It is anticipated that if the next monsoon is normal, relief measures will have to be carried on in the three northern Gujarát districts at least till the end of July, and in the other districts till the end of September or October, 1901. The following statement shows the estimates for each district reduced to units as compared with the numbers of units actually relieved in the corresponding months of last year :—

Month.		Ahmedabad.	Kaira.	Panch Mahals.	Broach.	Surat.	Khándesh.	Násik.	Ahmednagar.	Poona.	Sholápur.	Sátára.	Bijápur.	Belgaum.
January ...	1900 ...	2,321,704	522,592	489,468	2,641,632	243,264	6,573,840	1,430,212	2,797,900	632,884	3,823,372	499,688	178,892	37,576
	1901 ...	1,054,000	122,535	108,500	248,000	—	93,000	62,000	2,945,000	421,900	3,100,000	341,000	700,000	43,800
February ...	1900 ..	3,373,328	1,175,356	520,940	3,086,748	306,152	7,074,984	2,462,040	5,056,128	1,282,736	4,279,352	673,624	230,720	50,120
	1901 ...	1,372,000	174,874	152,066	394,800	—	168,000	84,000	4,200,000	855,100	3,080,000	420,000	987,058	52,800
March ...	1900 ...	4,803,295	2,971,745	723,905	3,646,545	532,665	9,468,305	3,698,240	8,407,210	2,647,540	5,928,160	1,069,635	470,505	76,825
	1901 ...	2,139,000	1,213,403	592,487	663,400	469,067	465,000	868,000	5,580,000	1,765,000	3,720,000	620,000	1,780,058	78,600
April ...	1900 ...	4,483,920	3,063,200	1,366,008	2,389,688	460,180	6,044,164	2,309,552	6,985,608	2,628,780	4,768,148	1,344,672	688,744	75,432
	1901 ...	2,370,000	1,475,490	699,420	687,000	684,144	1,200,000	840,000	5,700,000	1,752,500	3,900,000	900,000	2,897,762	143,660
May... ...	1900 ...	3,555,440	2,422,504	1,046,836	2,211,468	268,352	6,138,496	2,433,816	6,842,444	2,693,320	4,545,604	1,617,504	665,196	60,368
	1901 ...	2,449,000	1,663,596	783,618	725,400	947,806	1,240,000	1,333,000	5,890,000	1,795,400	4,340,000	1,085,000	3,110,486	151,600
June ...	1900 ...	4,590,250	4,377,345	2,554,615	2,635,080	812,490	7,141,890	3,265,535	9,429,525	3,216,780	5,996,725	1,962,800	767,060	110,845
	1901 ...	2,370,000	1,629,966	974,280	486,000	1,135,980	600,000	1,290,000	6,000,000	2,144,400	4,200,000	600,000	3,162,712	138,600
July ...	1900 ...	5,280,296	6,268,416	3,121,636	3,450,916	1,006,628	5,790,624	2,656,612	7,070,728	2,281,244	4,415,292	1,121,736	537,320	130,956
	1901 ...	2,449,000	1,379,500	713,000	241,800	713,000	465,000	1,085,000	5,580,000	1,520,700	3,720,000	558,000	2,257,296	151,800
August ...	1900 ...	5,401,452	5,939,360	3,476,844	3,141,376	920,876	5,014,408	2,482,964	6,137,768	2,035,460	3,700,676	1,301,496	333,396	60,172
	1901 ...	—	—	—	167,400	155,000	310,000	775,000	4,650,000	1,357,000	3,100,000	372,000	1,299,982	79,600
September ...	1900 ...	4,917,990	3,870,440	3,271,135	2,685,865	491,785	4,800,320	3,031,245	6,141,450	2,581,250	3,365,040	1,195,005	284,795	32,690
	1901 ...	—	—	—	90,000	75,000	210,000	450,000	3,600,000	1,721,000	2,700,000	240,000	691,574	50,100
October ...	1900 ...	1,077,412	1,939,420	906,332	1,788,304	207,088	2,001,160	1,509,340	2,540,188	1,452,108	1,900,668	531,356	188,272	30,212
	1901 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	229,354	21,600

In view of the account given by the Commissioner, Northern Division, of the crops and the comparatively low level of prices in Gujarát it would seem possible that the extent of relief likely to be needed there has been over-estimated, but the circumstances of Gujárát are so peculiar, the immigration from Native States in particular being an incalculable quantity, that it has not been deemed advisable to reduce the estimates of the local authorities. The Commissioner, Southern Division, considers that relief measures will also be necessary in portions of the Navalgund, Hubli, Kalghatgi and Bankápur Tálukas of the Dhárwár District, but as the estimates of outturn reported for these Tálukas are nowhere below 5 annas on the average it seems to the Governor in Council improbable that need for relief will arise there. The Dhárwár district has, therefore, been eliminated from the estimates.

10. The price of the staple food-grains (bájri and jowári) in the famine districts averaged 17 lbs. per rupee during the 14 months ending October, 1900. As the area on which crops have now failed is not nearly so large as last year, and as crops are good in places both inside and outside the Presidency, the average price is not likely to exceed 20 lbs., and it is proposed to take this as the basis for calculating the future expenditure. On this basis the rate of expenditure may be taken to be Rs. 91 per 1,000 units, and the result is shown below :—

Estimated units to be relieved during January to March, 1901—

District.	Number
Northern Division	8,704,000
Central Division	28,788,000
Southern Division...	3,642,000
Total	41,134,000

The cost of the relief at Rs. 91 per 1,000 units will be Rs. 37,43,194, or say, Rs. 37,43,000.

Estimated units to be relieved during the year 1901-02—

District.	Number.
Northern Division	25,065,000
Central Division	77,224,000
Southern Division...	14,386,000
Total	116,675,000

The cost at Rs. 91 per 1,000 units will be Rs. 1,06,17,425, or say Rs. 1,06,17,000.

11. The total expenditure under the major head "33—Famine Relief" for the current year amounted to Rs. 2,52,55,000 till the end of October, 1900, Rs. 1,76,47,000 in the Public Works and Rs. 76,08,000 in the Civil Department. The expenditure in the Civil Department during the month of November, 1900, amounted to Rs. 5,92,000, and that during December is estimated at Rs. 3½ lákhs. The expenditure during Novembér and December in the Public Works Department is expected to be about Rs. 10 lákhs. This will bring the total expenditure on famine relief in this Presidency up to end of December, 1900, to Rs. 2,71,97,000, and that for the months of January to March, 1901, is estimated above at Rs. 37,43,000, of which one-third is likely to be incurred in the Civil and two-thirds in the Public Works Department. The total actual and estimated expenditure for the year is thus estimated at

Rs. 3,09,40,000 (Rs. 97,98,000 in the Civil Department and Rs. 2,11,42,000 in the Public Works Department). This estimate exceeds the grants (Rs. 2,72,92,000*) already sanctioned by the Government of India by Rs. 36,48,000. I am directed to request that you will be good enough to move the Government of India to sanction an additional grant of Rs. 36½ lákhs for expenditure during the current year on famine relief in this Presidency, viz., Rs. 5,34,000 for expenditure in the Civil Department and Rs. 31,16,000 for that in the Public Works Department. As regards next year the Accountant General will be instructed to make the necessary provision in the Budget estimates.

* Rs. 92,64,000 in the Civil Department.
Rs. 1,80,28,000 in the Public Works Department.

12. As regards suspensions and remissions of land revenue the Commissioners have not yet submitted any definite estimates. Their attention has been drawn to the orders on the subject conveyed in the Resolution of this Government, No. 3,265, dated 5th September, 1900, of which I am to append a copy for ready reference. At the close of paragraph 5 of this Resolution it is directed that in cases in which, owing to the small size of the holding or the poverty of the crop, the outturn is insufficient to leave any balance after discharging the year's assessment and supplying the means of subsistence until another year's harvest, the arrears may be at once remitted. The following supplementary instructions have now been issued :—

> "It may be assumed (unless there is some special reason apparent) that arrears for years prior to 1899–1900 should be remitted at once, and in many cases it will be clear that arrears of that year should not be recovered according to the principles which have been prescribed. As regards the current year's revenue, the grant of suspensions will be regulated on the same principles. Those cultivators, however, whose case is covered by the orders in paragraph 5 of Government Resolution, No. 3,265, dated 5th September, 1900, and whose crops for this year are insufficient to justify the levy of the revenue from them, should be granted a remission at once, intead of merely a suspension. In the case of other cultivators not so badly circumstanced, the question of converting suspensions into remissions must await decision until the prospects of the season 1901–1902 are known. Government desire that in dealing with cases of remissions of arrears for past years, the principles already laid down should be followed in a liberal spirit, and the benefit of every reasonable doubt should be given to the cultivator."

13. This further extensive failure of crops will render necessary remissions and suspensions of the land revenue on an unusually large scale. Many occupants who have managed to pay their way so far will be able to do so no longer. Many who, with a good outturn might have paid part or whole of the arrears of the past year, will not be able to do more than discharge the dues of the year. Thus the collection of much of the revenue of another year will have to be suspended, and the suspended revenue of the past year will have to be remitted to a larger extent than was anticipated. But for the determination of the concessions required it is not, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, advisable to adopt with equity any course other than that which has hitherto been followed. Undoubtedly it is a disadvantage of the rayatwári system that it makes the difficulty of granting this form of relief much greater than it is under a zamindári system. Under the latter the average crop of a tract can be estimated, and Zamindárs or Malguzars can be trusted to distribute among the tenants relief to the extent to which they may be severally entitled to it. In this Presidency Government stand to the rayats in the relation of Zamindárs to their tenants. The occupants have to be dealt with individually by Government officers. If a rough estimate of the outturn of a tract were adopted as the basis of the remission of a general proportion of the assessment, the necessity for discrimination of individual cases would be obviated only to the extent to which revenue is needlessly sacrificed. All who had any hope of showing that their outturn was below the assumed standard would apply for further remission, and some could no more pay a proportion of the assessment than they could pay the whole. Even if the failure of crops were uniform over large tracts, suspension and remission could not equitably be granted in the same proportion to capitalists and to impoverished cultivators. But the failure except where it is absolute is never uniform, and in the current season the outturn is said to vary in the same villages in Gujarát from 2 to 12 annas, while many fields have not been sown at all. It is the duty of the village officers to record annually the actual facts as regards each field and of Circle Inspectors

and superior officers to test the record. In the circumstances, it is best when there is time to base the estimate of the extent to which remissions or suspensions should be granted on a consideration of the individual cases, but even if a preliminary estimate is based on a conjecture of the average outturn, the actual relief to be given must depend on the circumstances of the individual occupants. It would get rid of no difficulty to fix the amount of revenue to be remitted or suspended in the lump on an estimate of general outturn. The amount would probably be found either too large or too small, but in any case the relief would remain to be distributed according to the circumstances of individuals, and the distribution would have to be supervised by superior officers ; if it were left to the discretion of village officers, there would be favouritism and fraud ; the most influential would benefit unduly and the most needy would suffer.

Annexure.

Statement showing Rainfall of the season of 1900.

District.	Station.	June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.	
		Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900.	Normal.	1900
Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad ..	5·24	..	12·57	4·73	8·44	7·95	4·61	3·53	0·60	..	0·53	..
	Dhandhuka ..	4·77	..	10·42	4·72	5·62	14·15	4·45	3·23	1·06	..	0·43	..
	Dholka	4·90	0·03	14·14	0·91	8·58	12·21	5·03	1·43	0·38	..	0·75	..
Kaira	Kaira	5·56	..	16·16	2·29	9·31	16·64	4·59	2·61	0·65	..	0·71	..
	Mátar	5·22	..	14·28	3·75	10·12	16·00	5·05	2·22	0·48	..	0·67	..
	Thásra	6·37	..	13·72	2·18	9·30	14·9	5·43	4·64	0·70	..	0·38	..
Panch Mahals ..	Godhra	6·82	0·54	14·79	5·32	11·85	16·4	5·54	10·19	0·81	..	0·38	—
	Hálol	5·72	0·08	16·35	3·00	11·74	17·29	5·95	6·06	1·54	..	0·28	..
	Jhálod	5·67	0·27	10·20	3·13	8·72	13·80	5·12	7·30	0·82	..	0·60	..
Broach	Broach	9·69	..	17·72	4·33	8·17	20·46	5·29	8·01	1·44	..	0·25	..
	Vágra	7·38	..	13·81	7·28	6·21	20·37	4·71	7·55	1·32	..	0·24	..
	Jambosar	7·18	..	13·37	2·56	7·9	16·14	4·37	4·99	1·17	..	2·39	..
Surat	Surat	9·58	0·10	21·04	13·38	7·17	17·84	5·78	2·77	1·99	..	0·30	..
	Olpád	7·45	..	18·21	6·29	6·78	14·88	4·58	2·32	1·45	..	0·18	..
	Párdi	13·89	2·85	32·65	32·38	16·78	48·32	11·27	6·29	1·40	..	0·50	..
Khándesh ..	Dhulia	6·30	0·41	6·77	3·05	3·85	6·84	6·19	3·50	1·24	..	1·02	..
	Jalgaon	5·89	3·03	9·98	9·63	7·33	10·34	6·72	2·36	1·30	..	0·62	..
	Bhusával	4·48	1·91	9·27	8·05	6·01	7·17	6·01	2·15	1·72	..	0·49	..
Násik	Násik	6·15	3·36	8·74	9·43	4·18	10·36	6·04	8·51	3·17	..	0·58	..
	Málegaon ..	4·35	2·27	4·49	3·70	3·22	3·23	6·86	3·70	1·68	..	0·61	..
	Yeola	4·29	6·61	5·19	10·27	2·85	2·44	7·50	0·89	2·17	..	1·23	..
Ahmednagar ..	Ahmednagar ..	4·61	6·15	2·87	5·21	2·37	2·71	6·87	3·77	3·50	0·01	1·23	..
	Shrigonda	3·10	4·29	2·09	3·78	1·53	2·19	7·21	0·17	3·01	0·30	1·24	..
	Kopargaon	4·07	4·19	3·65	5·77	2·39	2·67	5·99	0·95	1·82	..	1·28	..
Poona	Poona	6·23	1·77	8·98	12·11	3·95	11·60	5·38	3·10	6·06	1·95	1·47	..
	Ghodnadi (Sirur) ..	4·24	5·90	2·28	6·69	1·61	1·61	8·10	1·10	3·65	0·91	1·30	..
	Dhond	5·38	2·47	3·16	3·15	1·73	1·59	6·82	1·36	3·45	0·72	0·94	..
Sholápur ..	Sholápur	3·77	6·36	3·88	4·05	4·53	1·23	8·26	4·18	4·03	1·69	1·66	0·05
	Karmála	3·38	4·70	2·91	5·56	2·96	3·01	9·45	0·41	3·52	0·47	1·17	..
	Sángola	3·38	6·44	1·61	3·62	3·72	0·79	7·00	1·43	4·00	3·11	1·06	0·01
Sátára	Sátára	7·69	4·85	14·88	14·49	7·83	18·89	4·15	1·17	5·60	1·95	0·94	0·62
	Khandála .. .	4·04	1·77	4·07	9·74	2·37	4·38	4·34	1·29	4·37	0·22	0·94	..
	Dahivadi (Mán) ..	3·36	7·02	2·64	3·31	1·76	2·24	6·05	0·18	5·41	0·88	1·49	0·30
Bijápur	Bijápur	4·00	3·97	2·17	4·50	2·54	0·53	7·38	1·34	4·48	1·04	1·60	0·41
	Indi	3·72	6·67	2·72	3·25	4·06	0·68	7·76	2·88	5·27	1·05	1·15	0·86
	Muddebihál ..	3·96	5·97	2·75	1·97	3·83	1·67	7·41	3·15	6·17	3·08	1·71	0·20
Belgaum	Belgaum	8·67	10·82	15·42	20·29	8·73	24·71	4·78	0·88	6·51	4·26	1·76	0·03
	Athni	2·87	2·85	2·31	1·05	2·37	2·43	5·34	1·63	4·70	1·84	1·25	..
	Murgod	4·19	2·78	3·51	4·74	2·20	5·64	5·05	..	5·30	2·19	1·46	..

NOTE.—The rainfall shown under "Normal" is the average of eleven years—1887 to 1897.

No. 59.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 709, dated Bombay Castle, 22nd February, 1901.

In reply to your telegram No. 170, dated 16th January, 1901, and in continuation of the telegram from this Government No. 226, dated 18th idem, I am directed to state for the information of the Government of India that the Commissioners, Central and Southern Divisions, have reported that the recent rain has not improved the situation in any of the affected districts in their Divisions, and that consequently no modification can be made in the forecast of relief expenditure for those Divisions.

2. The Commissioner, Northern Division, however, intimates that there is no ground for hoping that the forecast for that Division was unnecessarily high in all districts except Surat, and requests that the estimates of numbers on relief for the Ahmedabad, Panch Mahâls, Kaira and Broach Districts, previously furnished by him, may be reduced by 23, 15, 50, and 50 per cent. respectively.

3. These reductions necessitate the following modification in the forecast of famine expenditure in this Presidency, as reported in paragraph 11 of my letter No. 54, dated 7th January, 1901 :—

—	Forecast as already Reported.	Forecast as now Framed.
Revised estimate for 1900–1901 :—	Rs. in Thousands.	Rs. in Thousands.
Civil Department	97,98	97,98
Public Works Department	2,11,42	2,09,07
Total	3,09,40	3,07,05
Budget estimate for 1891–1902 :—		
Civil Department	35,39	33,28
Public Works Department	70,78	66,56
Total	1,06,17	99,84

4. I am to request that you will be so good as to move the Government of India to make the requisite modifications in the estimates in accordance with the figures given in the foregoing paragraph.

No. 60.

Letter from the Government of Bombay to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India in Council, No. 1,256, dated Bombay Castle, 19th April, 1901.

About the middle of November last, when, owing to the failure of the autumnal rains, it became evident that this Presidency would be subjected to another season of scarcity, we directed the Commissioners of Divisions to submit reports on the situation with estimates of the extent to which relief would be

required in their respective charges. On receipt of these estimates we addressed to the Government of India a consolidated report* for the Presidency on the agricultural situation and future requirements in respect of famine relief. We have the honour to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of this report* and of a further letter, No. 709, dated 22nd February, 1901,† to the Government of India, modifying the previous estimates in the case of Gujarát.

* No. 54, dated 7th January, 1901.

2. We have now the honour to report for your Lordship's information that the actual numbers relieved during the last three months have fallen far short of the estimates. This result is mainly due to the crops having yielded a better out-turn in several districts, to prices having generally remained much lower than was originally anticipated, and to extensive emigration from the affected parts of the Deccan and Karnátak to more favoured tracts in British as well as Native States territory. In the circumstances it now seems to us improbable that so much relief as was anticipated will be needed in the current and subsequent months, but the local officers in Gujarát apprehend that the grass seed, on which large numbers of people have subsisted for some months, will soon be exhausted, and that distress will then be widespread. Although the low range of prices still prevailing does not seem to support the view of the local officers, it will, in our opinion, be safer not to reduce their estimates largely before the expiry of the time when the exhaustion of the grass seed was expected. We also consider it desirable to see how the situation will be affected by the completion of the rabi harvest. By the close of this month we expect to be in a position to revise, if necessary, our previous estimates of the numbers to be relieved, and of the relief expenditure for the current financial year. We shall report our proceedings in due course to the Government of India and to your Lordship.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) NORTHCOTE,
E. C. K. OLLIVANT,
J. MONTEATH.

No. 61.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., *Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No.* 1389—17-9, *dated Simla, the* 15*th May*, 1901.

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to address you as follows in regard to the extent to which famine relief is being given in the Bombay Presidency.

2. So far as appears from the latest information which has been received, the apprehensions entertained last January of a marked rise in prices have fortunately not been fulfilled. It was then feared that grain would rise to 20 lbs. per rupee, and this rate was taken as the basis for estimating the probable famine expenditure. Grain is now obtainable in Guzarat at from 34 to 38 lbs. per rupee, a marked fall having occurred within the last four months. In the Deccan prices are higher, ranging from 25 lbs. per rupee in Bijapur and Satara to 27 lbs. in Ahmednagar and Sholapur. These rates represent a fall of from 10 to 20 per cent. on those which were current last January. They are lower than those current in some parts of the Central Provinces, and very much lower than those with which the people of those provinces were making shift six months ago.

3. Of British districts relief is being given most largely in Sholapur and Ahmednagar, where between 8 and 9 per cent. of the population are dependent

* See page 173. † See page 182.

on Government. The percentage is between 4 and 5 in Kaira and the Panch Mahals and between 2 and 3 in Ahmedabad, Poona and Bijapur. Elsewhere in British territory the amount of relief granted is not considerable. But in the Native State of Jath it is actually supporting 25 per cent. of the population. Numbers have fallen very largely in Sholapur since January last and there has been a considerable decrease in Poona. In other districts they have been rising more or less rapidly, the increase having been proportionately largest in Guzarat in spite of low prices. Taking all British districts together the numbers on relief have risen from 187 to 312 thousands within the last four months.

4. The Government of India fully appreciate the danger of relying too absolutely on prices as an indication of the condition of the lower classes. They realize that a calamity such as last year's famine cannot pass over the country without leaving in its track large numbers of destitute persons who can only find in prosperous seasons a chance of finding for themselves. In present circumstances the grant of gratuitous relief on a considerable scale is no doubt necessary if fresh suffering is to be prevented, and the Government of India have no wish to interfere with any measures which the Government of Bombay may consider necessary for affording such relief in the way either of cash doles or cooked food. But relief is now being given to the able-bodied to a larger extent than the pitch of prices would *primâ facie* justify, and care seems necessary to provide that it is really restricted to those who need it. Experience has shown that such work tests as can be enforced are not an entirely reliable means of discriminating between the deserving and the undeserving, especially in the case of those who live near the works, and I am to ask that measures may, if possible, be taken to scrutinize those who come to the works from a distance of five miles or less and to eliminate by the personal discrimination of enquiring officers those whose condition and apparent circumstances do not entitle them to State charity.

No. 62.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1507, dated Bombay Castle, 3rd June, 1901.

[Extract.]

With reference to the last sentence of the despatch from this Government to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 1256, dated 19th April, 1901,* of which a copy was forwarded to the Government of India with my letter No. 1262 of the 20th idem, I am directed to submit the further report promised regarding the estimates of numbers on relief and of expenditure.

In paragraph 2 of the despatch referred to above it was remarked that the actual numbers relieved during the months of January to March in this Presidency had fallen far short of the estimates. The following are figures for those months and the month of April and first fortnight of May:

Month (1901).	Estimated Relief Units.	Actual Units Relieved.	Percentage of Actuals to Estimates.
January	8,795,700	5,280,000	60
February	11,317,300	4,972,080	43·9
March...	18,434,600	6,600,405	35·8
April	21,518,718	7,500,654	34·8
May (1st fortnight)	11,819,797	4,701,228	39·7

* See page 183.

Taking Gujarát alone the proportion of actuals to estimate rose from 25·5 per cent. in March to 46·3 per cent. in April, but in the Deccan and Karnátak on the other hand it declined from 38·2 to 32 per cent. The rate of increase in the numbers relieved from week to week during the month of April and the first two weeks of May is shown below :—

For Week ending	Units Relieved.	Weekly Increase.
30th March, 1901	1,457,246	—
6th April, 1901	1,619,996	162,750
13th „	1,781,346	161,350
20th „	1,970,493	189,147
27th „	2,128,819	158,326
4th May, 1901	2,269,155	140,336
11th „	2,432,073	162,918

It will thus be seen that there has not been that extensive development of distress or rapid rise in the numbers on relief which was expected to occur after the conclusion of the rabi harvest and the exhaustion of the grass seed, on which large numbers of people, especially in Gujarát, were reported to have subsisted during the earlier months of the year. This favourable result is mainly due to the low range of prices, which continued to decline till the end of April last, but have since assumed an upward tendency. In the following table are compared, for each district, the average prices of jowári and bájri as they stood in the first week of January with those in the last week of April and the first two weeks of May :—

District.	Week ending 5th January, 1901.		Week ending 27th April, 1901.		Week ending 4th May, 1901.		Week ending 11th May, 1901.	
	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Ahmedabad ...	33½	30 5/12	37½	34⅕	35⅗	34	33⅜	31⅛
Kaira	33 6/7	32 9/14	38	38½	38⅔	38	37⅙	34 5/7
Panch Maháls ...	32⅓ (maize).	32⅓	34⅓ (maize).	35⅔	32⅔ (maize).	36⅓	32⅔ (maize).	36
Broach	30 5/6	28 5/6	37⅓	31	36 5/6	31	36½	31
Surat	33	23 (rice).	32	13 (rice).	32	—	32	—
Khándesh ...	29 5/21	26	33 9/21	32	33	32	32	31
Násik	20 9/40	25 7/40	28 1/40	28 3/20	26 7/10	28 11/40	—	28¼
Ahmednagar ...	20 6/7	24 4/11	26½	26⅕	25 9/10	25 7/10	26⅕	24⅞
Poona	23 3/40	24⅖	27⅘	26 13/40	27 1/40	25 7/10	26⅗	25 3/20
Sholápur	23 3/20	25 1/10	25 23/40	26⅜	25 17/40	26 3/20	25 1/10	25 31/40
Sátára	21 17/20	22	24 39/40	25 1/20	23 37/40	24⅜	23 23/40	24 7/40
Bijápur	20⅘	—	25¼	—	25	—	24⅖	—
Belgaum	22	18 (rice).	24	18 (rice).	25	—	24	—
Dhárwár	22 to 28	16 to 22 (rice).	26 19/20	20 1/20 (rice).	26 19/20	—	26 13/40	—

It is probable that the rise which has now commenced will continue till the prospects of next kharif season are assured.

Looking to the rate of increase in numbers during April and the first half of May and the level of prices, the Governor in Council considers that it may be safely assumed that if next monsoon is favourable, the actual numbers on relief during the current year will not exceed 40 per cent. of the original estimates. The following revised estimates for May and subsequent months are accordingly proposed :—

Month.	Original Estimate of Units.	Revised Estimate of Units.	Percentage of Revised to Original Estimates.
May	23,639,000	9,900,000	41·8
June	22,983,000	9,500,000	41·3
July	19,353,000	7,500,000	38·7
August	12,182,000	4,500,000	36·9
September	9,783,000	3,500,000	35·7
October	251,000	251,000	100
Total	88,191,000	35,151,000	39·8

In paragraph 10 of my letter No. 54, dated 7th January last, the cost of relief was calculated at Rs. 91 for 1,000 units on a basis of 20 lbs. as average price. The actual cost during the months of January, February, and March works out to—

Month.	Rs.
January	115 per 1,000 units.
February	92 „ „
March	83* „ „

* The rate for March is approximate, as the total actual expenditure for the month is not yet known.

The expenditure for these three months taken together comes to Rs. 96 per 1,000 units, while the prices of the staple food-grains have, during the same period, ranged between 27 and 29 lbs. on an average. The rate of expenditure is thus very high as compared with the range of prices, but this is mainly due to the fact that the cost of supervising small works is comparatively high, and to the necessity of maintaining large establishments to meet possible influxes on to works, and of ensuring effective supervision of subordinate officers employed on village inspection and relief. The duty last mentioned has been peculiarly difficult and important in parts of Gujarát, where it has been necessary to discriminate carefully between those persons who, though requiring relief, could not be persuaded to go to a distance for work, and those who, while able to make a livelihood, were only too eager to seize the opportunity of getting relief with little exertion at the expense of the State. The heavy expenditure on establishments has not, however, escaped the notice of this Government, and their officers are on the alert to keep it down. Figures of expenditure for the month of April are not yet available, but the rate per 1,000 units is likely to diminish with the increase in numbers. At the same time, as the prices already show a tendency to rise, it would not, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be safe, in calculating the expenditure for the current financial year, to assume

a lower rate than Rs. 83 per 1,000 units. Although actuals may be less with increasing numbers during May, June, and possibly July, yet when numbers begin to fall the estimate will again, in the later months, very possibly be exceeded. Adding the actual numbers relieved in April to the revised estimate for subsequent months proposed in paragraph 3 above, the total comes to 42,652,000 units, and the cost of relieving this number at the proposed revised rate of Rs. 83 per 1,000 would be Rs. 35,40,000 in round figures. Assuming a normal monsoon the expenditure on famine relief in this Presidency during the current year is not likely to exceed this amount.

In connection with the revised estimates proposed above, your letter (No. 1389—17), dated 15th May, 1901, regarding the extent to which famine relief is being given in this Presidency, has been considered by the Governor in Council, and I am desired to communicate the following observations.

As already reported in my letter (No. 54) dated 7th January last, there was very extensive failure of crops in the last season in a large part of this Presidency, and it is not therefore the case, as would appear to be suggested in the letter under reply, that the effects of the famine of the previous year are all that have to be dealt with. In the letter referred to the estimates of outturn in the several districts were also reported, and it was shown that over large areas in the Deccan the crops had failed no less disastrously than in the previous year and in 1896–97. Reference was also made to the exceedingly patchy character of the crops in Gujarát, where the outturn varied from village to village in the same táluka, being as low as 2 annas in some and as high as 12 annas in others, and there was even noticed as much difference between one field and another in the same village. Communications are now so extensive that good crops in other parts of India keep prices low; but the fact that prices are low does not dispense with the need for aiding those who have had no crops and who cannot get private employment. This Government has held the view that with cheap food distress was not likely to be so severe as the District Officers anticipated, and that the sudden exhaustion of grass seed in Gujarát which was expected by them was not probable, and that view has proved correct. But there is no indication that relief has been given unnecessarily for any length of time, checks being constantly applied. The attention of the Commissioner, Northern Division, was directed by this Government, at the very commencement of this year, to the low level of prices in Gujarát, and the replies to this reference showed that relief was indispensable, but was being restricted within the narrowest limits compatible with safety. In Gujarát the total numbers on relief are, after all, insignificant, and the system adopted there is described in the report of the Commissioner, Northern Division, forwarded to the Government of India with my letter (No. M.—444) of the 28th ultimo. This report shows that great care is taken to send on to large works any of the able-bodied class who are inclined to take unjustifiable advantage of the village works. In the Deccan there has been no change of the system carried out with success in previous years, and, in particular, no relaxation of tests.

The numbers have been prevented from rising to a much higher level than they have only by the subsistence in Gujarát of many persons on grass seed, the abundance of which is due probably to the unfortunately large area which has been left untilled in consequence of the disastrous mortality among the cattle. In the Deccan no such means of subsistence exists. Large numbers have emigrated, or, in those districts where the crop failure was only partial, have taken advantage of such opportunities of private employment as were available. In this part of the country the works have been few and large, and whenever any work has been found to become unduly popular as a source of employment to the immediate neighbourhood, the tendency has been corrected by drafting to more distant works. It has to be remembered that in Sholápur, Ahmednagar, and other severely distressed districts of the Deccan, the present is the third famine in five years. In such circumstances the conditions necessitating extensive State relief cannot fail to arise at a much lower level of prices than when the failure of crops follows a series of prosperous years. In judging as to the extent to which relief is required, the Local Government has had to rely, and has relied with confidence, on the judgment of the district officers helped

by those of the Sanitary Department, as to the condition of the people. The danger of demoralization has, however, never been forgotten, and all classes of officers have been on their guard against the grant of relief without discrimination.

No. 63.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3069—17-12, *dated Simla, the 30th July,* 1901.

Now that prospects are more assured and labour is in demand for field work, I am directed to suggest the expediency of giving relief workers an effective stimulus to return to their ordinary avocations. The Government of India realize that it is owing to the uncertainty of prospects that the commencement of the Monsoon has had so little effect in decreasing the attendance at relief works, and they have noticed with satisfaction the reduction in numbers shown by the telegraphed returns for the 20th July. There are no doubt areas in which cultivation is still impeded by want of rain and where it would be hazardous to curtail relief very largely. But generally the rainfall of the Deccan districts is up to normal and the latest information available indicates that crops are flourishing. In Gujarat rain has been light and irregular. But good falls have been registered during the past week at Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Surat and prospects must have substantially improved. Prices in Gujarat are much below famine level, grain being obtainable at from 16 to 18 seers per rupee. In the Deccan, prices are higher ranging from 11 to 13 seers per rupee, rates which are, however, easier than have of recent years been associated with severe famine. The condition of the people is reported to be generally satisfactory, save in some limited areas of Ahmednagar and Sholapur. The death-rates of these two districts for June were under 2 per mille, and in only one of the affected districts (Ahmedabad) was the death-rate as high as 2·32.

2. In these circumstances it appears to the Government of India to be very doubtful whether the State is justified in spending on famine relief about ten lakhs of rupees a month. The latest returns give the numbers on relief at half a million of whom nearly 3,50,000 are still employed on works. In Native States there has been a fall in numbers since the first week of June, but in British districts numbers are in spite of the recent reduction, still higher by 15 per cent. than six weeks ago. The numbers on work relief show a small decrease, but those gratuitously relieved have increased by 50 per cent., owing in most part to a large extension of State charity in the Khandesh district, where numbers have risen from 10,000 to 40,000 though prices are easy and there is believed to be no distress in the adjacent districts of the Central Provinces and Berar. Labourers who have been maintained through the hot weather months in fair condition may of course be expected to take advantage of the demand for field labour which springs up with the rains. When, owing to high prices, the usual cash wages have lost in purchasing power, labourers of the poorest class may reasonably be assisted by the grant of gratuitous relief to their children, or to some of them, and it is in acknowledgment of this that gratuitous relief is ordinarily expanded during the rains. It may be urged that owing to a contraction in cultivation the demand for labour is short of the normal. But losses in population have very considerably reduced the numbers of labourers for employ.

3. I am accordingly directed to commend to the consideration of the Government of Bombay the suggestion that the time has come for a very substantial reduction in the numbers of the able-bodied relief workers, to be brought about either by materially increasing the stringency of the terms of employment or by personal elimination of those who are in good physical

condition. If the former course is adopted and the task is raised, care should be taken to exempt the weakly, who should be separately ganged, and tasked, if indeed this is not already the case. It is probable that the raising of the task can be advantageously combined with a certain amount of personal elimination as the officer introducing one measure can himself undertake the other. As already stated when field wages at present prices provide insufficient grain for the subsistence of labouring families, assistance may reasonably be given by the grant of doles to some at all events of the non-working members.

No. 64.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine). No. 819-P., dated Poona, the 9th August, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3069—17-12, dated 30th July, 1901, suggesting the adoption of certain measures calculated to bring about a very substantial reduction in the numbers of the able-bodied relief workers in this Presidency, and in reply to state that the Commissioners of Divisions have been requested to report immediately to what extent they are in a position to give effect to the suggestions of the Government of India.

2. When your letter was written the latest figures which the Government of India had before them were those for the week ending 20th July, 1901. The daily average numbers of relief workers for that week are compared below with the numbers telegraphed for the week ending the 3rd instant—

—	Week ending 20th July, 1901.	Week ending 3rd August, 1901.
Ahmedabad	19,560	14,525
Kaira	23,616	4,733
Panch Mahals	9,507	5,812
Broach	665	Works closed.
Sholapur	61,977	62,240
Ahmednagar	75,790	79,817
Poona	22,557	21,656
Khandesh	1,415	1,418
Nasik	6,691	5,655
Satara	13,184	13,905
Bijapur	20,731	22,896
Belgaum	12,544	13,937

The good rain which has recently fallen in the kharif tracts in Gujarat has already caused a substantial reduction in Kaira. The decrease in Ahmedabad and the Panch Mahals is not so large, but a further satisfactory reduction may soon be expected in those districts also. In the Deccan and Karnatak on the other hand the latest figures on the whole show an increase over those of the week ending 20th July, 1901. This is due to the fact that in the Eastern Deccan where famine is most acute rain has hitherto been very partial and the

kharif crops are there of small importance as compared with the rabi. In this tract the numbers are likely to remain high as in previous famines until the month of September, when the prospects of the kharif harvest and of the rabi sowings are assured. As has been previously reported to the Government of India, as the present year of scarcity is the second in succession and the people had not time to recover from the effects of the famine of 1896-97 before they were overtaken by a similar calamity, the people require to be treated with a certain degree of leniency, and the level of prices does not afford a correct gauge of the necessity for relief.

File No. 17. Serial No. 11.

3. I am at the same time to observe that the situation everywhere is being carefully watched and every effort is made to restrict relief to what is absolutely necessary. The large increase in the numbers on gratuitous relief at Khandesh noticed by the Government of India had attracted the attention of this Government, and I am to append a copy of their Resolution No. 1866, dated 1st instant, on the subject for the information of the Govenment of India. On works the weakly are separately ganged and tasked and the rest paid according to results, but the Commissioners will be desired to direct a reduction of the rate for work done wherever they consider that private employment is available for such as may leave the works.

4. I am to add that attempts have been made to weed out from large works those who do not appear to be in need of relief in accordance with the suggestion made in paragraph 4 of your letter No. 1389—17, dated 15th May, 1901, but such attempts have hitherto been attended with a very small measure of success. In a recent report the Commissioner, Central Division, observed as follows :—

> "The Collectors were asked to take steps to give effect to the orders of the Government of India for the elimination from works of those who are not fit objects of charity, but no appreciable reduction in numbers has been effected anywhere. It is difficult to exercise any such discretion except in the most obvious cases, and reliance must be placed, as in the past, on the maintenance of discipline and the rigorous exaction of tasks."

Enclosure in No. 64.

Extract from the Proceedings, to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 1866, *dated* 1*st August*, 1901.

Government memorandum to the Collector of Khandesh, No. P—724, dated 17th July, 1901 :—

"The undersigned presents compliments to the Collector of Khándesh and is directed to observe that the weekly returns in famine Form 17 for Khándesh for the weeks ending 29th ult. and 6th inst. show a large increase* in the numbers on village gratuitous relief in that District. The Collector is requested to be good enough to furnish Government with an explanation of this large increase."

*Week ending	Daily Average Numbers.
22nd June	15,545
29th June	25,542
Increase	9,997
6th July	34,196
Further Increase ...	8,654

Letter from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1550, dated 22nd July, 1901 :—

"With reference to Government memorandum No. P-724 of the 17th instant to the address of the Collector of Khandesh, I have the honour to state that the increase in the number of dole recipients had previously attracted my notice and was made the subject of a reference to the Collector. The rise in numbers is explained by him as due to the admission to dole of all Bhil cultivators in Nandurbar, Pimpalner, Taloda, Navapur, Shahada and Shirpur Talukas. This measure of relief will probably not be necessary after the end of August, when it is expected the maize crop will be ready. The Collector is satisfied that no fraud is being practised by subordinates. The lists have been checked by Mr. McIver as well as Mr. Vernede, and both are constantly moving about and supervising the distribution of doles. The former looks after the Pimpalner Taluka and the Navapur Petha, while the latter has Taloda and Nandurbar in his charge. Mr. Vernede will also scrutinise the Shahada lists and Mr. French will be asked to examine those for Shirpur.

"2. Government wished that small works should be carried on simultaneously with the grant of dole, but, owing partly to rain and partly to weeding operations being in progress, it has not been found possible to give effect to this order and the people are leaving the small works. The Pimpalner Road works and a forest work in Shirpur are almost the only works which are drawing a few hundred persons each. Liberality in the matter of dole is, in the Collector's opinion, keeping down crime and inducing the Bhils to stick to their villages. In about six weeks more the numbers on dole in all probability will begin to fall, and I hope that Government will concur in the Collector's view that until then no reduction in the numbers on dole should be attempted. Even as the numbers are at present, they can hardly be regarded as excessive for five talukas where there was great distress last year. The effect on crime is most satisfactory."

RESOLUTION.—Some extension of gratuitous relief to members of aboriginal tribes in the rains is admissible, but there should be selection of those in need of it. The admission to the dole of all Bhil cultivators in five talukas and one petha, which involves the gratuitous relief of many who in the dry weather did not find it necessary to seek employment on works, seems to go beyond the necessities of the case. Efforts should be made to restrict the dole to those who cannot obtain other means of livelihood, and tagai for subsistence should preferentially be given to cultivators who, though requiring temporary aid, are likely to be able to repay advances.

No. 65.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3242—17, *dated Simla, 26th August,* 1901.

In acknowledging receipt of your letter No. P.-819, of 9th August, 1901, on the subject of the contraction of famine relief in the Bombay Presidency, I am directed to express a hope that the conditions now prevailing in Gujarat, where prices have now fallen in some places to 20 sirs per rupee, will render it possible to close all relief works by the end of this month and to gradually withdraw gratuitous relief by the end of September. The Government of India appreciate the effect of previous calamities on the people of the Deccan, but I am to suggest that, after the middle of next month, relief might cease to be given to the able-bodied, gratuitous relief continuing in gradually decreasing extent for a month or six weeks later.

No. 66.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2040, *dated Bombay Castle, 9th September,* 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 3242–17, dated 26th ultimo, on the subject of the contraction of famine relief in this Presidency, I am directed to state for the information of the Government of India that unless the monsoon takes any unfavourable turn there is a fair hope that relief of all kinds will be closed in Gujarát and Khándesh by the end of this month.

2. As regards the rest of the Central Division and the Southern Division, I am directed to forward a copy of the Resolution* of this Government passed on the reports received on the subject, and to state that the Governor in Council is convinced that it would not be safe to adopt more stringent measures for the contraction of relief than are proposed in the orders. I am to point out that in 1896-97, as well as 1876-77, the need for

* No. 2032, dated 7th September, 1901.

relief in the Eastern Deccan, including Bijápur, continued to be very great in September; indeed in Bijápur the maximum of relief given was reached in September of 1897. In the current year the kharif prospects are better, but in many places are not good, and in any case agricultural labour is not needed on an extensive scale until the season of weeding rabi crops. With every desire to meet the wishes of the Government of India, this Government feel that a summary closure of all works in the middle of the current month in the Eastern Deccan would be disastrous. Agricultural labour is both more remunerative and more agreeable than labour on relief works, and when enough of it is available the people will not remain on relief works.

Enclosure in No. 66.

No. 2032, *dated Bombay Castle the 7th September*, 1901.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 8502, dated 15th August, 1901 :—

"With reference to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 1908, dated 12th instant, the Commissioner, Northern Division, has the honour to remark that the numbers on relief works for the week ending 10th August have sunk—

In Ahmedabad to 4,728,
In Kaira to 727.

"2. The question in those two Districts is therefore rapidly ceasing to be a practical one. In the Panch Mahals, after a great drop on 3rd August, the numbers have slightly risen on 10th to 5,865, and the Collector is being consulted."

Letter from the Commissioner, S. D., No. F.—735, dated 16th August, 1901 :—

"With reference to paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 1908 of the 12th instant, calling for report as to the extent to which the suggestions of the Government of India can be given effect to, in regard to the reducing of able-bodied workers on the relief works, I have the honour to reply as follows.

"2. Experience in the Belgaum and Bijapur Districts, during the famines of 1896–1897 and 1899–1900, indicates that people in these parts do not remain on relief works when the need for relief is over. In 1896–97 the number in August in Bijapur was 104,301, in September it was 103,483, but owing to sufficient rainfall in the last week of September and subsequently it fell to 19,786 in October, and to less than 2,000 (1,286) in November. In Belgaum in 1896–97 very much the same thing happened, and in the famine of 1899–1900 the works were voluntarily abandoned in a similar way.

"3. The famine-stricken regions in this Division are, normally, for by far the greater part, rabi. Consequently the rain for them and the time for cultivating them and the time when people would find employment in the fields has not come yet. Had good rain already fallen throughout the area, the people would no doubt have sown a deal of kharif in rabi land, but the rain has not, by any means, everywhere been good enough to enable the people to sow kharif in even all the land that in a normal year is sown with kharif, and a good deal of such kharif as has been sown is now in a precarious condition.

"4. Consequently, I am afraid that we cannot at present hope to reduce at all the number on our works, as there is no sufficient field labour or any other employment for them, and they would remain in their houses and fall into bad condition."

Letter from the Collector of Ahmednagar, No. F.—3776, dated 17th August, 1901 :—

"With reference to your memorandum No. F.—1691, dated 14th instant, I have the honour to report that in consideration of the good physical condition of the able-bodied workers on relief works there will be little danger in raising the present tasks by 25 per cent. for earthwork. In my opinion the present tasks for metal-breaking should not be raised. I recommend the raising the tasks for earthwork, because Classes I, II and III are now capable of turning out more work. I do not think there will be any large demand for field labour for some time, probably until the kharif harvest is about to be reaped. For this reason it is not wise to effect a substantial reduction in the number of relief workers by a system of elimination on a large scale. The raising of the task will probably effect a small reduction and will make the people eager to leave the works at the first opportunity. And this is, I think, all that can be safely done at present.

"2. It is the unanimous opinion of my Assistants and myself that there is no scope at present for a substantial reduction in the dole lists."

Letter from the Collector of Sátára, No. 7112, dated 17th August, 1901 :—

"I have the honour to reply to your Memorandum No. F.—1691, dated the 14th August. I regret I do not see how it is feasible at present in this District to eliminate people from the relief works. In the first place, in the period between one harvest and another the need for relief increases steadily and surely because the resources of people, who have any resources (in the way of small stocks of grain) to start with, get gradually exhausted and obviously cannot be replenished until the next harvest. In the second place, though in a district in which relief works are managed according to the famine code and a minimum wage, sufficient to support life in reasonable comfort, is paid, it is probable that large numbers of lazy people may be attracted to a relief work, yet this is not the case in a district like Satara, in which there is no minimum wage and people are paid by results.

"When payment is made by results on a relief work, the wages earned are less than an agricultural labourer could earn in the open market. There is an obvious incentive therefore to an able-bodied labourer to abandon relief work in favour of agricultural labour at the first opportunity; and I have heard of many cases of people deserting their relief work and going to distant villages where employment could be found. They returned, however, as soon as their agricultural work was completed. Another reason for not adopting severe measures for the elimination of able-bodied persons from relief works in this district is that a very large proportion of the workers are women and children, and there are generally a good many non-working children attached to them. There is, therefore, a difficulty in finding enough men to enable us to arrange gangs properly. This difficulty would be increased if many of the men were eliminated, and on the other hand elimination of women would have an unfortunate effect on the children dependent on them.

"In a District in which relief works were numerous it might be possible to arrange to have distance test, and to refuse to allow people to attend relief works near their homes. But this is out of the question in Satara at present, for there are only three relief works, and one of these is in a hilly taluka with a heavy rainfall, and another will have to be closed shortly on account of the completion of the work. Another expedient would be to increase the task. I am prepared to do this at once with your permission in the Patan Taluka, in which the task assigned is only 75 per cent. of the ordinary famine task. But I do not think we should be justified in increasing the task in the Khatao Taluka (at the Nehar and Goregaon work), where the ordinary famine task is already assigned, until the crops are in a more forward condition.

"In your third paragraph you suggest a reduction of the dole lists. I am having inquiries made with this object. But just as the time before the harvest is the time when the need for employment on the relief works is necessarily greatest, so it is the time when the demand for dole is greatest on the part of those who have been unable to go to relief works."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1719, dated 21st August, 1901 :—

"Copies submitted to Government with reference to their Resolution No. 1908, dated the 12th instant.

"2. The Collector of Ahmednagar considers that there will be little danger in raising the present tasks by 25 per cent. for earthwork, no change being made in the task for metal-breaking. The Collector of Satara proposes a similar enhancement of the tasks in the Patan Taluka only.

"3. Subject to the rule for the separate ganging and tasking of the weekly, the Commissioner considers that these suggestions may be approved from and after the week ending 31st instant.

"With reference to paragraph 2 of the Resolution, the administration of the dole has been recently very carefully inquired into and the relief is well administered, and, where necessary, on the lines indicated."

Letter from the Collector of Nasik No. 11040, dated 21st August, 1901 :—

"I have the honour of replying to your No. F.—1691, dated 14th August, 1901.

"2. One of the main obstacles in the way of contracting relief operations has been the continued dearness of food-grains as compared with normal rates. Twenty per cent. above normal is not unusual; and this is the level at which Section 11 of the Famine Relief Code implies that famine may be regarded as imminent and relief measures called for.

"3. But the present conditions are peculiar. Even in Yeola, where there has been very little rain, the poor-house is not overfull, and the taluka contributes but few persons to the relief works in the neighbouring talukas of Chandor and Sinnar.

The death-rate, too, continues normal everywhere. These facts prove, I think, that the standard of living and the rate of wages have adjusted themselves to meet the high prices prevailing, and that, when agricultural work is possible, the labourer can earn a living wage.

"4. Moreover, unless the rains stops abruptly (as it did in 1896), the kharif harvest over a large area should be fair to very good, and may be expected to begin about the end of September or soon after. In other parts the crops have been kept alive by frequent showers, but are nevertheless backward, and the harvest will probably be late. And in Yeola, Eastern Sinnar, and a quadrilateral roughly bounded by the Satana-Malegaon Road, the Malegaon-Manmad Road, the northern boundary of Chandor and Chandor-Satana Road, there has been very little rain indeed, and some land still remains unsown.

"5. I consider, therefore, that in Igatpuri, Dindori, Peint, and Nasik all relief may be discontinued after the end of this month; except, perhaps, the Nasik poor-house, of which more presently. I do not think that any material hardship would be occasioned by adopting the same course in Nandgaon and in the part of Kalvan and Baglan west of the Chandor-Satana-Pimpalner Road.

"6. In the east of Kalvon, Baglan and Malegaon (exclusive of the quadrilateral already referred to), in Niphad and in Chandor, I hold it advisable to continue relief till the end of October. It might be discontinued earlier, if Government insist; but, if so, they must be prepared for a possible rise in the death-rate.

"7. In the areas mentioned at the end of the paragraph 4 above, I am at present quite unable to say when relief can stop. All the elements of famine are present—high prices, scanty rainfall, a bad outlook for harvest, scarcity of employment. But, as I have said, the death-rate keeps down. If relief is discontinued in these areas shortly it must be only a tentative cessation, and the mortality must be carefully watched.

"8. The small work in south-west Malegaon (Sonai Tank) is full. Admissions are made at the discretion of the officer in charge, the works in best case having to make way, if necessary, for new arrivals in poor condition. The Odal tank work in Chandor is not very largely patronised; but, as I have said in paragraph 6, it would be well to keep it open till the end of October, if only to take drafts from the Nasik poor-house. The Sinnar-Wavi Road has some 3,500 people on it, and here a difficulty has arisen which to some extent accounts for the steady increase of dole recipients. People come to this work who are obviously not so feeble as to require the special treatment meted out to the weakly, the hill-folk, &c., but whose inclusion in the other gangs is keenly resented by the stronger and more able-bodied workers lest their admission should reduce the wage-earning capacity of the gangs. I have referred this to the Executive Engineer, with a view to employing this intermediate class on a lower task. The forest demarcation works in Kalvan and Baglan have been completed.

"9. The poor-houses in Nasik and Yeola should be kept open at present, people from the former being drafted to the Odal Tank: and, in order to prevent their persistent return at the earliest possible opportunity, I think it would be well to refuse re-admission to sturdy beggars, and to deal with such under Section 109, Criminal Procedure Code. This would tend to a decided abatement of the beggar nuisance. At present I think there can be no doubt that many people well able to earn a living are, by choice, living by means of charity, poor-house relief, and petty theft.

"10. I have given relief to the needy of the Nasik weavers at their own trade, but have warned them that they cannot expect this after funds run short, which will probably happen next month.

"11. I beg, therefore, to inquire whether you approve the suggestions contained in paragraphs 5 to 9 above."

Reply of the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1743, dated 26th August, 1901 :—

"In reference to No. 11,040, dated the 21st instant, from the Collector of Nasik, the Commissioner has the honour to reply as follows.

"2. The Collector's proposal that relief should cease after the 31st instant in the following areas is approved :—

Talukas Igatpuri, Dindori, Peint, Nasik, and Nandgaon, and in the Kalvan and Baglan Talukas, west of the Chandor-Satana-Pimpalner Road.

"3. It is presumed that in the above the Collector wishes also to include West Sinnar.

"4. In the rest of the District relief should cease gradually as the situation improves, and a further report should be submitted by the end of September next. The closure of the poor-houses must be left to the Collector's discretion."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1744, dated 26th August, 1901 :—

"Copies submitted to Government for information in continuation of this office memorandum* quoted in the margin."

* No. F.—1719 of the 21st August, 1901.

Letter from the Collector of Khandesh, No. F. 1367, dated 23rd August, 1901 :—

"With reference to your memorandum, No. F.—1691, dated 14th instant, I have the honour to report that I had already anticipated the orders of the Government of India embodied in their letter quoted in the preamble of Government Resolution, No. 1908, dated 12th idem, and issued orders accordingly, directing contraction of famine operations in West Khandesh.

"2. Finding that the agricultural outlook had greatly improved, and a demand for labour was arising, I first gave orders on the 3rd August to cut down the dole list, so as to set free such of the dole recipients as could obtain agricultural employment in the fields. These orders have resulted in reducing the number of doles by 29 per cent. Further on, when I found that the prospects were well assured, that maize was fast ripening, and roots and vegetables were available almost everywhere, I directed, on the 15th August, that in Nawapur and Sindkheda, where the Bhils could be left safely to themselves without any assistance from us, the doles should stop from date of receipt of the orders, and that in other places they should be further reduced, retaining on the list only such cultivators, not exceeding two in each family, as would not be able to carry on their operations without our help. I have further directed that in all other talukas the doles will close by 31st instant except in Pimpalner, where, as previously reported, they will continue till 15th September next.

"3. Moreover, I found that the special rates of wages were not needed on the relief works, and that the time had come to make the conditions of the wage more stringent ; so on the 11th August I asked the Executive Engineer to reduce the wages to the level of the Code rates, and make payments strictly in proportion to the work done. I have also closed the Nandurbar-Bhadwad Road work, and other works will follow suit.

"4. The effect of these orders will, I hope, be noticeable in the returns for the week that closed on the 21st. It will thus appear that every endeavour has been made to reduce the famine operations and restrict the relief to where it is absolutely needed, and that nothing is now left to be done in reference to suggestions of the Government of India.

"5. Since writing the above I have heard from the Divisional Forest Officer that all the Forest Famine Works which were in progress in Nandurbar, Shirpur, and Taloda Ranges, have been closed."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1751, dated 27th August, 1901 :—

"Submitted to Government in continuation of this office memorandum quoted in the margin."

No. F.—1744 of 26th August, 1901.

Letter from the Collector of Sholapur, No. D.—2761, dated 20th August, 1901 :—

"With reference to your memorandum, No. F—1691, dated 14th instant, I have the honour to report that, in my opinion, until the kharif crop has been reaped, no reduction of the dole lists is possible. The present system of relief must be continued as it is till the end of September, by which time the kharif crops will have ripened and the prospects of the rabi crops will be fairly definite. As this District has suffered from successive famines and scarcity since 1896, the resources of the people are exhausted, and they deserve the most lenient treatment. Strict instructions have, however, been issued to all Relief Head Karkuns not to admit to dole any persons who are fit and able to maintain themselves, and to strike off the lists any such who have crept in.

"2. As regards the contemplated reduction in the number on works, all that is possible is being done. The numbers, I am glad to report, have already commenced to go down."

Reply of the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1752, dated 27th August, 1901 :—

"The Collector is requested to be good enough to state whether at least on some works the task may not be raised for earthwork by 25 per cent. It should not be so raised without the previous permission of Government. Prices are easier and prospects in some tálukás good, and no hardship would apparently be caused by the raising of the task. The Collector's opinion is therefore invited on the subject after consulting the Executive Engineer."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1753, dated 27th August, 1901 :—

"Copy, with a copy of the Collector's letter, submitted to Government in continuation of this office memorandum quoted in the margin."

No. F.—1751, dated 27th August, 1901.

Letter from the Collector of the Panch Mahál, No. 5775, dated 23rd August, 1901 :—

"With reference to your No. 8533 of 16th August, 1901, I have the honour to state that the daily average number of persons on relief works for the week ending 10th August was 5,815 and not 5,865 as stated in your memorandum. The figures were thus identical with those of the previous week, 5,812.

"2. Nearly the whole of the workers were in the Eastern Mahál. In the Western Mahál there was only the Godhra-Baroda Chord Line work, which has now been closed. The reason why there was no decrease in the Eastern Mahál was that the rains had not been sufficient up to the dates of the reports under reference. The people had not therefore had much incentive to leave the works.

"3. I am very desirous of reducing the numbers as soon as practicable. But it is the opinion of the local relief officers that few of the Bhils have grain in their houses, and until the 'samo' is ready, which will be in about three weeks from this date, it is not safe to turn the people off the works without some fear of deterioration which has already been noticed in some parts of the Division. The local demand for labour cannot be expected to take off many of the workers, as there are few well-to-do cultivators who employ labour, while the cultivation on the lands belonging to the Bhils themselves, which is not of an elaborate nature, has been performed by the members of the families who have remained at home.

"4. There has now been good rain in Dohad and Jhálod, and, with the near approach of ripe 'samo,' it will be safe to begin to get the people off the works in the next week, and I shall take steps to do so. I propose to close works which do not appear absolutely necessary, and on others to reduce the wage. As regards the Muwália Tank, the only large work now remaining, I am now in consultation with the Executive Engineer."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 8822, dated 31st August, 1901 :—

"Copy submitted to Government with reference to this office No. 8502, dated 15th instant."

Resolution.—The orders issued by the Commissioner, C. D., to the Collector of Násik in his memorandum No. F.—1743, dated 26th August, 1901, are approved.

2. The proposals for raising the tasks by 25 per cent. in the Ahmednagar District and in the Patan Taluka of the Satara District, contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. F.—1719, dated 21st August, 1901, are also approved. The report of the Collector of Sholapur called for by the Commissioner in his memorandum No. F.—1752 of the 27th idem, regarding the raising of the tasks in that District, and the report for the Poona District, which has not yet been submitted, will be awaited.

3. The Commissioner, S. D., should be requested to consider at once whether it would not be safe to raise the task in Bijapur as has been done in Ahmednagar and is likely to be done in Sholapur and Satara.

No. 67.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C. I. E., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3478—17—16, dated Simla, the 23rd September, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 2040, dated the 9th instant, regarding the contraction of famine relief operations, I am directed to say that the Government of India learn with satisfaction that the grant of relief of all kinds in Gujarat and Khandesh will probably terminate by the end of the current month.

2. As regards the operations in other parts of the Presidency, I am to invite the attention of the Governor in Council to paragraphs 144 and 153 of the Report of the Indian Famine Commission, 1901, and to state that the policy therein formulated for the administration of work relief during the monsoon season has been accepted by the Governor General in Council and that it is trusted that the Government of Bombay will give it due effect.

COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE—SUSPENSIONS AND REMISSIONS.

No. 68.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine, No. 1058—171-1-F, dated Simla, the 23rd May, 1900.

The Governor General in Council is aware that the policy of the Bombay Government this year in the matter of land-revenue suspensions and collections in Gujarat and elsewhere has been the subject of considerable criticism in the public press, and has called forth numerous memorials and representations, some of which have reached this Government. His Excellency in Council is also aware from the monthly proceedings of the Bombay Government that the officers charged with the duty of giving local effect to the instructions of the Government have felt considerable doubt as to whether those instructions will not result in a degree of pressure upon the revenue payers that must seriously militate against the return of agricultural prosperity after the immediate effects of the drought have passed away.

2. The Governor General in Council is ordinarily reluctant to interfere with the details of the administration of the land revenue in the Bombay Presidency, and he is sensible that in adopting the policy which has given rise to so much controversy the Presidential Government have been actuated by a wish to guard the fiscal interests of the imperial exchequer. He is anxious, therefore, that the present communication should not be regarded as a censure on the line of action which has been pursued, but rather as an enquiry whether, in view of the present emergencies of the agricultural population in the Northern Division, a somewhat more liberal policy in dealing with the land revenue question may not with propriety be adopted.

3. The Governor-General in Council is deeply impressed with the magnitude of the calamity which has befallen the districts of Gujarat, and with the many and obvious signs that the spirits and energy of the people have given way under the unparalleled losses which they have sustained. Destitution not only has befallen the small and struggling cultivator, who measures his resources by the crop of each year, but it has also extended to classes who in ordinary years are more or less independent of the vicissitudes of the season, and enjoy good credit at reasonable rates. Credit, the Governor-General in Council believes, is virtually dead at present in Gujarat so far as agriculturists are concerned. Jewelry can only be disposed of with the greatest difficulty and at ruinous rates, and assets which were once easily realisable at fair market values are greatly depreciated. These facts, though they appear to have been questioned* in the early months of the famine, are now matters of common notoriety, and must be accepted as elemental truths in any discussion as to the resources of agriculturists whose crops have failed and whose cattle have died this year.

*Bombay Government's Resolutions, No. 8370, dated 23rd November, 1899, and No. 236, dated 16th January, 1900.

4. The principles laid down in the latest orders of the Local Government that suspensions should not be granted to persons who are able to pay the revenue "without inconvenience or difficulty," and that "no coercion should be used to recover from an occupant assessment which he cannot pay out of resources other than those needed for the efficient resumption of agricultural operations" are theoretically reasonable. So also is the underlying principle that in granting or refusing suspensions of revenue regard should, so far as may be practicable, be had to the general financial circumstances of individual revenue payers and their respective ability to meet the Government demand from resources other than the actual crop of the year. But the practical application of these principles in a year of widespread destitution is exposed to two difficulties. In the first place, if rigorous discrimination is insisted on, it devolves minute and inquisitorial inquiries as to the circumstances of thousands of petty farmers upon already overworked revenue establishments, and it opens the door, as the Famine Commission of 1878 pointed out, to the evils of personal favouritism and official corruption. In the second place, the issue of such inquiries is so largely a matter of opinion that it is liable to be largely influenced by any general views which the Government may be thought to entertain as to the amount of revenue to be collected within the year. The remedy for the first difficulty is not to insist upon a rigorous discrimination or a close investigation of individual resources, but to accept a somewhat broad classification of the revenue payers with reference to their obvious circumstances. The remedy for the second is for the Government to show that it wishes to be liberal, or, at least, to give the divisional and district authorities permission to suspend revenue up to a definite sum in the aggregate.

Bombay Government Notification, No. 82, dated 8th April, 1900.

Report, Part II., Section III., paragraphs 5 and 8.

5. The Governor-General in Council is constrained to think that the instructions and observations contained in the orders of the 23rd November, 1899, and of the 16th January, 1900, are calculated, even when read in the light of the explanatory orders of the 8th April last, to create the impression that a rigorous discrimination, and a close and jealous scrutiny of assets, are made essential preliminaries to granting postponement of the current year's demand in the distressed districts. If such an impression has actually been created, it is antecedently improbable that the procedure of the district and taluk officers, acting in compliance with instructions thus interpreted, will result in liberality to the revenue payers. The Governor-General in Council has not observed that any definite indication has been given by the Government to its officers as to what proportion of the total demand of the year may with propriety be suspended. In some other provinces, on occasions of widespread drought

necessitating large postponements of the demand, the Local Government has found it convenient to settle a limit of this kind for the division or the district in consultation with the Commissioner or the Collector, and on a general consideration of all the attendant circumstances. Within a limit thus fixed, the Divisional Commissioner is free to apportion the amounts to be suspended in each district, and the Collector does the same for each taluk in his district. Discrimination between one village or another, or between individual revenue payers, can then be more readily pursued and with better results, so far as it may be thought necessary ; but it usually takes the form of excluding a small and well-defined majority of well-to-do persons, who by common repute are fully able to pay the demand "without inconvenience and without difficulty."

6. In commending this course to the Governor in Council for his consideration, the Government of India desire to express their opinion that a considerable proportion of the year's land revenue demand should be suspended in Gujarat. The incidence of the land revenue on the cultivated area in several of the districts of Gujarat is exceptionally heavy, and the assessment has been admittedly made on the supposition that these districts were practically immune from any such drought as periodically visits the lightly assessed Deccan. The circumstances of Gujarat in the present year are thus quite as abnormal as the circumstances of the Chenab irrigation tract in the Punjab would be were the headworks to be temporarily injured, and the tract thereby reduced to a desert. In the latter case, the revenue would under the system of assessment in force in the Chenab tract automatically disappear ; but, even were it legally leviable, the idea of attempting to collect any large portion of it would be regarded as wholly wrong and impolitic. Yet the case is sufficiently analagous to that of the highly assessed and now barren lands of Gujarat to enforce the argument in favour of treating the revenue payers of Gujarat this year with special liberality.

7. The effect which the Government of Bombay may be disposed to give to these suggestions will, it is foreseen, depend in a measure upon the extent to which the land revenue may have already been realized. As to the progress of the collections up to date, the Government of India have no knowledge, and they would desire to be informed on this point. They also desire to learn what decrease in the budget estimates of land revenue for the current financial year is likely to occur by reason of any action taken on this letter. My recent telegrams with regard to the probable requirements of the Government of Bombay for advances for seed and cattle will have acquainted His Excellency the Governor in Council with the decision of the Government of India to come to the aid of the agriculturists of distressed tracts in a very special manner. In connection with this measure, they are anxious to ensure that the policy of the several Local Governments in the matter of the collection or postponement of the land revenue demand shall be so shaped so as not to impede or interfere with the effect of the measure, but rather so as to co-operate with it in restoring agricultural prosperity.

No. 69.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2599, *dated Bombay Castle,* 21*st June,* 1900.

I am directed to request that you will be so good as to submit for the consideration of the Government of India the following remarks with reference to your letter No. 1058—171-1-F., dated 23rd ultimo.

2. It is stated in paragraph 5 that the Governor-General in Council has not observed that any definite indication has been given by this Government to its officers as to what proportion of the total demand of the year may with propriety be suspended. I am to invite a reference to paragraph 12 of the Honourable Mr. Muir-Mackenzie's letter No. 124-Fam., dated 2nd October, 1899, in which an estimate was given of the maximum amount of which the collection was likely to be suspended in the Northern Division, to which Division your letter of May 23rd makes especial reference. In the letter above referred to the proportions for the several districts of this Presidency are definitely stated. The first step which is taken in this matter of revenue collection is to desire the Commissioners and Collectors to report how much will in their opinion be recovered in accordance with the general principles prescribed. If the forecasts of these officers are accepted by Government, they of course form the standards up to which they are expected to work. In the case of the four Northern districts of Gujarat, the Governor in Council was, for reasons stated in the letter above quoted and in Government Resolution No. 8370, dated 23rd November, 1899, unable to adopt the estimates of the Collectors and therefore prescribed different standards. But in Government resolution No. 236, dated 16th January, 1900, it was explained with reference to further representations from the Commissioner that it was not intended to direct that all the revenue which this Government considered that the occupants in these districts might reasonably be expected to be able to pay should necessarily be recovered; that what was important was to apply properly the general orders which had been given, and that the result would show whether the estimates of Government or those of the Commissioner were the more correct.

3. The orders referred to are those contained in Government Circular No. 9704, dated 2nd December, 1896, and Government Resolution No. 98-Fam., dated 9th January, 1897, and the method of applying them is explained in Government Resolutions No. 236, dated 16th January, 1900, and No. 1965, dated 7th April, 1900. The general principle adopted is the same as that stated at the close of paragraph 5 of your letter, but the classes of people who are *primâ facie* held to be not entitled to concession are somewhat more definitely designated. Besides occupants who have reaped crops of fair value, with regard to whom there is presumably no difference of opinion, they are non-agriculturist occupants, who are in other words, or at least for the most part, money-lenders, mortgagees, who are almost invariably men of capital, and occupants who are by common repute well-to-do. As regards the last, it has been directed that they should have the benefit of any doubt. To these people only are even notices issued; the rest are not presumed to be able to pay without borrowing, and if revenue is collected from any of them, it is because they or people on their behalf pay of their own accord. So far it is clear that no minute and inquisitorial inquiries such as are referred to in paragraph 4 of your letter are involved in this Government's procedure. If, however, people of the classes above described, who may *primâ facie* be held to be able to pay, refuse to comply with the notices issued to them, the burden of proving their inability clearly rests upon them, and of course further inquiry is necessary. To such an extent only do the principles applied by this Government involve proceedings which can in any sense be called inquisitorial, and in the opinion of his Excellency the Governor in Council they are not open to objection, and cannot be avoided unless payment is made a mere matter of option. It may be observed, however, that for the purpose of these proceedings as well as for a satisfactory classification of the kind above described the officers of this Presidency possess special qualifications. An Assistant or Deputy Collector is required to travel at least seven months in the year, and generally does travel more. He visits every part of his charge, and comes within easy reach of every village as a rule twice a year. A Collector also generally travels through every taluka once in a year. These officers have, therefore, a closer acquaintance with the people and their circumstances than is usual in most of the other parts of India. It has been ordered that the question whether distraint should be resorted to in any case is to be decided by an officer of not lower rank than that of Assistant or Deputy Collector, and in these circumstances personal favouritism and official corruption in this matter are practically impossible.

4. The Governor in Council cannot but think that the course which has been followed in this Presidency differs in no material respect from that which is commended for his consideration. If, however, there is any misapprehension, this Government will be glad to know precisely what amendment of the procedure is desired, aud will most willingly adopt any measure by which his Excellency the Governor-General in Council may consider that the revenue which is equitably recoverable can be collected with less inconvenience to the people. There is certainly no wish on the part of this Government that the landholders of the Bombay Presidency should be treated with less liberality than those of other parts of India. Executive officers are universally in sympathy, and are aware that Government is in sympathy, with cultivators, and are most anxious to do all that is possible to promote the prosperty of that class, and to avoid anything calculated to have the opposite effect.

5. Undoubtedly according to present indications distress in Gujarat is very much more severe than was anticipated by this Government to be possible in a province of such reputed wealth, and it has been necessary to abandon the standards of revenue recoverable which seemed exceedingly moderate when compared with what had been realized in less favoured and equally-afflicted tracts of country in 1896–97 with no more pressure than was required to check organized opposition. The revised estimates of the Collectors are shown in column 3 of the accompanying statement, and now form the standards up to which it is thought these officers will be able to work. The Governor in Council cannot at present say that any other standards would be more suitable, and if they are not adopted, the only alternative in the direction of greater liberality is to forbid any further pressure in the collection of revenue.

6. But for the purpose of assisting the Government of India to form an opinion as to the propriety of adopting such a course I am directed to bring the following facts to the notice of the Government of India. The preambles of the accompanying copies of Resolutions quoted in the margin contain the replies of the Collectors of Gujarat to an inquiry made by the Commissioner, N. D., as to whether any considerable section of the occupants who could afford to pay the assessment were contumaciously withholding it, and there is also appended a more detailed report* from the Collector of Kaira. It will be seen that there is ample evidence of combined opposition on the part of notoriously wealthy people, and that savkars and merchants have been removing valuable property to Native States, and that even people who have reaped irrigated crops of abnormal value in this year of famine have endeavoured to defeat the recovery of the assessment from them. Vigorous measures were taken by the Collector of Surat, in the greater part of which district there was a considerable outturn of fodder which in the circumstances possessed this year an abnormal value, and a fair yield of grain, and of cotton, with the result that there is now but a small balance of the year's revenue outstanding. Columns 7 and 8 of the accompanying statement show the collections, and their proportion to the demand in all the districts of the Presidency proper, the figures having been obtained by telegraph for the purpose of this report. The proportion recovered is higher in the Panch Mahals—the poorest district in Gujarat—than in the rich districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira and Broach, and the figures for these districts offer a remarkable contrast to those for all districts of the Central Division except Ahmednagar. The amount shown for Ahmedabad is said to include adjustments on account of remissions for enhanced assessment. It is doubtful whether the amount recovered in that district is equal to the assessment of the irrigated land, which is not far short of one-tenth of the whole occupied area, and is of course more highly assessed than other land. The facts that the revised estimates of the Collectors of the four Northern Gujarat districts are very far short of the original estimates of Government and that the collections in these districts are far short of the lowest estimates which have been framed indicate that the action of the local officers has not been unduly influenced by

No. 2165, dated 3rd May, 1900.
No. 2240, dated 10th May, 1900.

* No. R—3434, dated 9th May, 1900.

any views expressed by Government. It seems more probable that many landholders who are well able to pay their assessment have been encouraged to withhold it by their belief that the Commissioner and some of the Collectors had advocated very extensive suspensions. Proof of the theory is not possible but there is little doubt that when a Collector or Commissioner reports on a matter of this nature the purport of his report or recommendation leaks at once out of his office and speedily becomes public property.

7. The Governor in Council, therefore, is of opinion that if the concession above indicated or any other concession beyond what has been authorised by this Government is granted, it will benefit only wealthy people, and it will strengthen their tendency to organize opposition to the recovery of the revenue, and be productive of trouble and difficulty for many years to come. Cultivators will not profit, for capitalists will only make advances to tenants and debtors when there is favourable rain, and will do so in that case equally whether the Government dues have been discharged or not. But if the concession is granted in Gujarat, there would be no justification for not extending it to the Deccan, which, however, would even thus profit far less, because in it a much larger share of the revenue has already been paid. In his evidence before the Famine Commission of 1880, Sir Richard Temple said*:—"In Bombay, the people of the Gujarat province, including the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, and Surat, are morally and materially the most prosperous of any province in India." Portions of Gujarat have no doubt suffered in more recent years from unfavourable seasons, floods and other causes, but not more than the Deccan has done even up to the year 1896–97. In that year that Division was in the throes of acute famine, which did not extend to Gujarat. Intervening seasons were less favourable in Sholapur and the East of Poona and Ahmednagar than in any district of the Northern Division, and in this year the loss of crops in Khandesh, Eastern Nasik, Eastern Ahmednagar and Eastern Poona has been not less complete. To these tracts the remarks made at the close of paragraph 6 of your letter apply quite as fully as to any part of Gujarat. That province undoubtedly contains a large number of very poor people, but it also contains a much larger number of wealthy inhabitants than any other part of the Presidency. Many of these persons are prone to make complaints, and the Governor in Council is unable to perceive that Gujarat has a more valid claim than other parts of the Presidency to specially favourable treatment.

* Appendix II., p. 30.

8. As already stated column 7 of the accompanying statement shows the collections up to date, and it seems probable that about 11 lakhs more may be paid voluntary, making a total of nearly two crores. If further pressure is prohibited, it will be necessary to reduce the budget estimate of land revenue for the current financial year by at least 37 lakhs. It has been assumed in framing the budget that a considerable portion of the revenue suspended in the current revenue year will be collected before 31st March, but it is improbable that a substantial part of what may be postponed in the circumstances referred to will be readily paid. If the course which has hitherto been followed be continued, and the Collectors' estimates are realized, the collections will still be nearly 18 lakhs below the budget estimate, and this deficiency occurs almost entirely in Gujarat.

Enclosure 1 in No. 69.

Statement of Land Revenue Collections, &c.

District.	Total Land Revenue for Collection.	Amount now Estimated by Collectors as likely to be Collected.	Amount Originally Estimated by Government as likely to be Collected.	Percentage of Column 3 on Column 2.	Percentage of Column 4 on Column 2.	Amount of Revenue now Reported as Collected.	Percentage of Column 7 on Column 2.	Difference between Columns 4 and 3.	Difference between Columns 4 and 7.	Area Irrigated in the Season of 1899–1900.	Area under Cultivation in the Season of 1898–99.
1.	2.	3.	4.*	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Acres.	Acres.
Ahmedabad	15,32,000	5,70,000	12,25,600	37·2	80	3,00,000	19·6	6,55,600	9,25,600	79,451	8,19,162
Panch Mahals	3,25,503	1,22,130	2,60,403	37·5	80	1,17,130	35·9	1,38,273	1,43,273	6,426	4,54,205
Kaira	21,00,000	11,00,000	16,80,000	52·4	80	7,00,000	33·3	5,80,000	9,80,000	41,161	6,33,533
Broach	21,37,465	7,15,154	17,09,972	33·4	80	3,13,000	14·6	9,94,818	13,96,972	997	8,49,335
Surat	23,00,111	22,38,876	20,70,000	97·3	90	22,17,266	96·4	—1,68,876	—1,47,266	4,959	4,14,372
Thana	12,23,518	11,50,000	11,01,166	94	90	10,00,000	81·7	—48,834	1,01,166	3	4,33,819
Ahmednagar	15,81,000	8,81,000	10,51,000	55·7	66·5	5,07,277	32	1,70,000	5,43,723	88,691	23,85,298
Poona	12,07,216	7,04,326	7,07,216	58·3	58·6	6,64,326	55	2,890	42,890	58,378	17,53,388
Nasik	15,50,000	12,25,000	12,24,000	79	78·9	11,00,000	70·9	—1,000	1,24,000	44,312	15,98,431
Satara	19,43,000	14,45,000	11,63,000	74·3	58·1	12,95,000	66·6	—2,82,000	—1,32,000	66,418	14,97,927
Sholapur...	11,20,000	8,20,000	9,60,000	73·2	85·7	8,02,000	71·6	1,40,000	1,58,000	1,10,074	18,18,178
Khandesh	41,00,000	30,50,000	28,00,000	74·4	68·3	24,50,000	59·7	—2,50,000	3,50,000	29,583	16,47,444
Belgaum...	15,60,000	15,20,627	15,43,000	97·5	98·9	14,74,056	94·5	22,373	68,944	26,243	14,87,454
Bijapur	13,90,000	11,40,000	11,05,000	82	79·4	10,70,000	76·9	—35,000	35,000	10,608	22,60,833
Dharwar...	24,81,943	24,50,688	23,48,943	98·7	94·6	24,40,688	98·4	—1,01,745	—91,745	17,530	15,36,149
Kanara	9,87,375	†9,52,375	9,52,375	96·4	96·4	9,46,000	95·8	—	6,375	—	2,10,558
Kolaba	12,82,709	12,82,709	12,82,709	100	100	11,32,709	88·3	—	1,50,000	—	3,97,730
Ratnagiri	8,33,979	8,23,979	8,28,979	98·8	99·4	6,89,800	82·7	5,000	1,39,179	—	16,858
Total	2,96,55,819	2,21,91,864	2,40,13,363	74·8	80·9	1,92,19,252	64·8	18,21,499	47,94,111	5,84,834	2,02,14,674

* Figures in Column 4 are for the revenue year, being the land revenue for that year, *minus* the suspensions originally estimated by Government to be necessary, not the budget estimates for the financial year.
† Figure for Column 3 has not been reported by the Collector of Kanara; that in Column 4 for that district has therefore been adopted for Column 3 also.

Enclosure 2 in No. 69.

No. 2165, *dated Bombay Castle, the* 3*rd May*, 1900.

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., to the Collectors in the Northern Division, No. 3324, dated 26th March, 1900 :—

"I have the honour to ask if you have any reason to believe that any considerable section of khatedars in your district who can afford to pay the assessment are contumaciously withholding it. If so, I shall be glad to be informed what steps you have taken to break down their opposition."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 3924, dated 8th April, 1900 :—

Thana Collector's No. 2517, dated 27th March, 1900.
Kaira Collector's No. R.–2242, dated 28th March, 1900.
Ahmedabad Collector's No. F.—1309, dated 4th April, 1900.

"Copy with copies of the replies received up to date from three Collectors submitted to Government for information."

Letter from the Collector of Thana, No. 2517, dated 27th March, 1900 :—

"In reply to your letter No. 3324, dated the 26th instant, I have the honour to report that no considerable section of khatedars in this district are contumaciously withholding their land revenue."

"2. There are, of course, a few isolated instances of the kind in which I have ordered either attachment of property or sale of land, and a good number of landowners, small and large, are putting off payment in the hope of getting suspension or waiting for higher prices for their grain. But in those talukas in which the Mamlatdars have taken sufficient trouble over the matter land revenue has come in very well, and the fact that in some parts the collections are backward is, in my opinion, simply the fault of the Mamlatdars concerned, about whom I shall most likely have something to write later on."

Letter from the Collector of Kaira, No. R.–2,242, dated 28th March, 1900 :—

"With reference to your No. 3,324, dated 26th instant, I have the honour to state that I have every reason to believe that a large number of the well-to-do patidars of this district, who, as I am informed, can afford to pay the assessment, are contumaciously withholding it. The only action being taken against them is that orders are being issued for the distraint of their holdings. An effort is, I believe, being made by the sub-divisional officers to take proceedings first against the leaders of the contumacious parties in the various villages in the hope that when the other various people see the influential men being severely dealt with they will become more amenable. In cases of undoubted contumacy, the one-fourth fine will be levied in addition to the amount of the assessment due. I am glad to be able to report that a certain amount of success has attended the action taken, as will be seen from the fact that Rs. 19,532 have been recovered during the week ending 24th instant, as against Rs. 3,510 in the preceding week. The sub-divisional officers are proceeding carefully and making as thorough enquiries as are practicable in each case."

Letter from the Collector of Ahmedabad, No. F.–1,309, dated 4th April, 1900 :—

"With reference to your No. 3,324 of 26th ultimo, I have the honour to state that considerable numbers who can pay are contumaciously withholding. In some cases moveable property is being attached, in some cases land is to be forfeited."

Letter from the Collector of Broach, No. Fam.–2,762, dated 12th April, 1900 :—

"With reference to your No. 3,324, dated the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to state that, though no combined action under the directions of any organised leading is apparent in the district, every holder who can avoid paying up his dues seems to have made up his mind not to pay it. Mamlatdars have been directed to serve persons who, in their opinion are well-to-do, with notices of demand and the rayats have been informed that if they hold back payment through pure obstinacy their lands will be forfeited. But the fear of forfeiture does not act so readily in the case of rich persons possessed of property as the fear of attachment and sale of their moveable property which consists of gold and silver ornaments and hard cash. Besides, they say that Government will forfeit their holdings and will again give them back free of occupancy price and the arrears. It is under this impression that they have intentionally

withheld payment. I have therefore directed the Mamlatdars that in the case of extreme recalcitration where attachment of moveable property would produce the desired effect to attach it and to follow the usual procedure. I have also directed them to distinctly inform the cultivators that if their lands be forfeited they will never be given back to them but will be sold by public auction to the highest bidder. I have issued these instructions with a direction that this measure should be adopted with very great caution and discretion. I hesitated much before I gave this power to Mamlatdars, but when I found that the savkars and merchants systematically sent out their valuables to the neighbouring states to avoid its being attached, I had no other alternative but to issue the order."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 4144, dated 14th April, 1900 :—

"Submitted to Government in continuation of this office No. 3,924, dated 8th instant."

RESOLUTION.—Recorded.

Enclosure 3 in No. 69.

No. 2240, *dated Bombay Castle*, 10*th May*, 1900.

Letter from the Collector of Surat, No. F.-1137, dated the 26th April, 1900 :—

"In reply to your letter No. 3324, dated 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that some sawkars and well-to-do khatedars of the Mandvi, Bardoli, Valod (Mahal) and Olpad Talukas combined to exaggerate their distress and to withhold paying in the assessment. When my camp was at Mandvi I found that the collection of land revenue was proceeding very slowly and that the sawkars and well-to-do had combined to refuse payment of the assessment. The attachment of lands had absolutely no effect as they imagined that the lands would be restored or at any rate recovered on easy terms next year. I accordingly issued warrants for the arrest of three of the leading defaulters—sawkars. One warrant only was executed with the result that Rs. 10,000 were paid in by sawkars on the same day and the combination in Mandvi and the Olpad Sub-Division practically disappeared.

"2. At Valod I found a similar combination among the sawkars which was broken up by the attachment, at my suggestion, of the moveable property of one of the ringleaders.

"3. In Olpad and Bardoli Talukas the opposition did not extend beyond passive resistance instigated by the better classes and was broken down by firmness on the part of the Sub-Divisional Officer and the Mamlatdars.

"4. In the Bulsar Sub-Division associations were formed by some of the leading Anavlas of Chikhli, Bulsar and Pardi Talukas, but when the leaders themselves were made to pay the assessment first the rest followed their example and the movement died a natural death.

"5. In the Jalalpur Taluka I found that the Kolis of one village, Bodali, had met in panch and passed a resolution to fine and outcast any who paid their revenue. I called the leading members of the panch and pointed out to them the illegality and the consequence of such action and insisted on their paying first in the presence of the whole village.

"6. It may be said to the credit of the Kali Paraj and poorly classes of cultivators that they did not join in any such movement and in spite of their comparatively limited resources have paid off their dues as far as lay in their power."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 4724, dated 1st May, 1900 :—

"Submitted to Government in continuation of this office No. 4144, dated 14th ultimo."

RESOLUTION.—The Collector should be informed that Government approve of the action taken by him, which in the circumstances was judicious.

Enclosure 4 in No. 69.

Letter from the Collector of Kaira to the Commissioner, N. D., No. R—3434, dated the 9th May, 1900.

I have the honour to return your No. 4364, dated the 21st ultimo, and to report as follows:—

2. The steps taken to collect Government demand this year are these: Early in December last the statement prescribed in paragraph 3 of Government Resolution No. 8345, dated the 22nd November, 1899, was ordered to be prepared for every village. It was ready by the beginning of January, and notices of demand were issued against those who fell into any of the classes specified therein. But they were regarded by the people as mere waste paper. Compulsion had, therefore, to be resorted to, and detailed orders consistent with the declared policy of Government were issued. Forfeiture of lands in respect to which the arrears were due was as a preliminary step authorised. Attachment of moveable property was also allowed only in cases in which it was known to be sufficient to meet with the Government demand without causing deprivation of necessities to the defaulters. The authority to order distraints was of course restricted to the Sub-Divisional Officers, *i.e.*, Assistant and Deputy Collectors.

3. The above processes were carefully and steadily applied. The better results in the beginning of February were due to them. But the effects were only temporary and a lull began towards the end of that month, as the preliminary step of simple forfeiture was regarded as a mere threat by the people, whose attitude in the matter of collection is well known to you. Day by day it became more astute. So far as my information goes, subscriptions were raised to send deputations and to meet other charges in this connection. Memorials were printed and forwarded to all offices in large numbers by all alike protesting against the levy of assessment this year. All possible obstacles were thrown in the way of Government officials. Valuables were removed to safe quarters or buried. Orders regarding the precautionary measures were openly defied, and crops removed and stored in secure places to avoid attachments. Some of the patels too took a leading part, and I had to set an example by suspending the worst of them. Those who were honest enough to pay were looked upon with utter contempt and threatened with excommunication. They were, however, careful enough to pay punctually the judi due on their inam land to save it from forfeiture. Such land can, however, be legally attached for arrears due on account of Government khalsa land, and orders accordingly issued.

4. More stringent measures were thought necessary, and sales of forfeited lands were ordered, but I am happy to say not a single sale has up to now been allowed to be completed. In test cases, distraint of moveable property was ordered, and in the worst cases action had to be taken under Section 142 of the Land Revenue Code. The steady increase in the flow of collections is the result of these steps, as will be seen from the statement marked "A" appended to this letter. And with a view to deal a final blow at the combination I have ordered the levy of notice fees and ¼ penalties in cases of obstinacy after the 15th instant. This, I think, will bring round the Bania, who has hitherto kept in the back ground.

5. In conclusion I beg to bring to your notice the case of the Talukdars, Udhadars, and other large landholders. A heavy amount is due from them, but as yet I have taken no steps against them, as practically they have received no rents this year. The question is engaging my close attention, and I will very shortly decide what to do in their case.

6. The above will, I hope, satisfy you as to the action taken and the results achieved in the matter.

Annexure.

Statement showing total land revenue collections during the year 1899–1900.

Week Ending.	Total Collections During the Week.	Remarks.
	Rs.	
3rd February, 1900	49,982	
10th „ „	33,388	
17th „ „	14,854	
24th „ „	22,213	
3rd March „	8,762	
10th „ „	4,044	
17th „ „	3,510	
24th „ „	19,532	
31st „ „	27,597	
7th April „	22,248	
14th „ „	15,941	Decrease owing to Easter holidays.
21st „ „	24,669	
28th „ „	30,132	
5th May „	34,311	
Total	3,11,183	

No. 70.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Famine), No. 1409 *F. dated Simla, the 7th July*, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2599, dated 21st June 1900, reporting on the policy which has been pursued in the present famine by the Government of Bombay with regard to the collection of the land revenue.

2. The figures appended to your letter show that in four out of the five districts in Gujarat, very considerable leniency has in point of fact been exercised in the collection of the land revenue by the collectors, and it is inferred that their estimates for the remainder of the year, though very much below the estimates reported to this Government in October last, are accepted by the Government of Bombay as a reasonable standard which may be attained so long as coercion is kept within strictly reasonable limits, and which will not be exceeded. On these estimates about 30 lakhs remain for collection, of which 11 lakhs more may, it is thought, be voluntarily paid in, if further pressure is prohibited. The prohibition of further pressure will thus affect the sum of about 19 lakhs, and the Government of India are asked as to whether such prohibition is desired or not by them.

3. I am to remark that no suggestion was made in my letter of the 23rd May 1900 that the enforcement of all coercive processes should be stopped. There are undoubtedly cases even in a year of very great distress, in which coercion is justifiable and necessary. The Government of India neither had nor have any intention of interfering with the discretion of the Government of Bombay in the matter.

4. The Governor-General in Council in my letter above referred to confined himself to the general principle that, in a period of widespread and severe distress originating from general failure of the crops over large areas, it is advisable to grant suspensions freely and promptly, and to confine coercive processes to the small and well defined minority of persons who can pay the demand without inconvenience and difficulty. It is urged in your letter that this is the actual practice which has been enjoined on district and divisional officers this year in the Bombay Presidency, and that the procedure described in paragraph 3 does not involve minute and inquisitorial inquiries. If this view of the position be correct, there in no difference of opinion between the two Governments as to the proper policy to be pursued. It is impossible however, to peruse the proceedings of the local Government without being struck with the fact that this estimate of the procedure prescribed for divisional and district officers was not the opinion formed respecting it by the officers who were responsible for its application. They appear to have found it a difficult, it not an impossible, problem to divide with accuracy the general body of agricultural occupants in a year of the present severity into those who were not well-to-do, and those who were sufficiently well-to-do to justify pressure to pay. It is of course possible that these officers were mistaken as to the difficulty of the task or that they set about it in the wrong way. But the impression which the correspondence has left on the mind of the Government of India is that the task would have been made easier for them had they been told at an earlier date that the Government had seen cause to reconsider the standard of revenue collections reported to the Government of India in October 1899, and that it was prepared to accept a much lower one. From paragraph 2 of your letter it is understood that the October estimate of collections was communicated to collectors provisionally for guidance. It is now recognised to have been an impossible standard, and has been in practice set aside. But the process of setting it aside has been lengthy, and has been accompanied by much argument and disputation between the Government and its officers, by much uncertainty on the part of the latter as to what the Government actually expected them to accomplish, and by active controversy in the public press, European and Native. These disadvantages might, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, have been avoided, had liberal limits for suspensions been fixed at an early date for each district.

Letter No. 3389, dated 27th March 1900, from the Commissioner, Northern Division.

5. In paragraph 4 of your letter it is said that there is no wish that the landholders of the Bombay Presidency should be treated with less liberality than those of other parts of India, and enquiry is made as to what is the practice elsewhere. The correspondence enclosed in this letter will show that in the Central Provinces this year 70 per cent. of the year's demand has been suspended. In the famine tract of the Delhi Division of the Punjab, which is the part of that province most severely affected by drought, more than one half of the demand has been suspended. In the famine of 1897 revenue to the amount of about one and a half crores was suspended in the north-western Provinces and Oudh, the suspensions being distributed over the several districts in proportion to their respective crop losses and their general condition. In the same famine suspensions aggregating Rs. 33,60,000 were given in four Deccan* districts of Madras on the year's demand of Rs. 63,09,000. Had the Madras Presidency this year suffered to the same extent as Gujarat, there is no doubt that, under the rules which are in force in that Presidency, suspensions would have been given at once, and before the issue of notices, on a very liberal scale, with reference mainly to the extent to which the crops failed in each district, sub-division, or group of villages, and without inquiry into the individual circumstances of the ryots. The Government of India do not suggest that the practice of other provinces in this matter is in all respects suitable to the land-revenue system of the Bombay Presidency. But they think the answer to the inquiry contained in paragraph 4 of your letter is that greater liberality in suspensions of land-revenue is, as a rule, shown in other temporarily settled provinces than has been the practice in the past in the Bombay Presidency. At the same time they willingly admit that the collections

* Kurnool.
Bellary.
Anantapur.
Cuddapah.

up to date this year in several districts of the Presidency, are practical evidence that a large portion of the revenue demand has been left with the occupants.

6. These observations are confined to the question of suspensions. There is no reason why every suspension should involve ultimate remission of a corresponding amount of land-revenue. The case for liberality and promptitude in the matter of revenue suspensions, when the country is suffering under a wide-spread calamity, is well put in paragraphs 6 and 14 of the letter of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. As regards remissions, however, the case is different. If the land-revenue assessment is light or moderate, if the general condition of the landholders before the famine was good, and if the tract shows signs of prompt recovery at its close, a large portion of the suspended revenue should ultimately be capable of collection. There is then time (which is wanting in the stress and hurry of famine relief) to make careful inquiries into the circumstances of individual landholders ; while with the revival of credit pressure on the part of the revenue authorities has then a less injurious effect, and is then accepted as reasonable by the great body of landholders. It seems to the Government of India that, if this distinction between suspensions and remissions is clearly preserved, increased liberality in the matter of suspensions need not necessarily be attended by corresponding loss of revenue.

No. 71.

Resolution of Government, No. 3265, *dated Bombay Castle, the 5th September*, 1900.

As the revenue year 1899-1900 has now closed, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers it desirable to issue the following further instructions with regard to the collection of land revenue pertaining to that or previous years, and at the same time to call attention to certain provisions of the law which there may be some risk of being misconstrued.

2. If, as is hoped, the harvests of the current year are good, it will be legitimate, and no doubt in many cases expedient, to adopt the precautionary measures authorized in Sections 140 and 141 of the Land Revenue Code. The revenue of the current year is properly a first charge on the crop, and the lien should be enforced where the crop is good and leaves after discharge of the Government dues a balance sufficient for the maintenance until another harvest of the cultivator and those dependent on him. But it is important to bear in mind that this lien is only to the extent of the current year's revenue and the utmost care must be taken to avoid any action likely to lead to the mortgage of the crops on account of arrears of revenue of past years. When the crops are reaped, it will be a question for consideration whether the outturn is or is not such as will enable the occupant, without borrowing, to pay also part or the whole of what is due for the previous year.

3. In any case in which land has not been cultivated owing to the occupant's want of means, the responsibility for the assessment, in consequence of notice of relinquishment not having been given before the date prescribed in Section 74 of the Land Revenue Code, should not be enforced. In almost all such cases it will be in accordance with the principles which have been laid down to remit the arrears of previous years. But care should be taken to confine the benefit of these concessions to persons who, being in actual occupation directly under Government, have not the means of cultivation. Superior holders, whether registered as occupants or not, who are not impoverished, but who, for reasons other than inability to provide the cost of cultivation have allowed land to remain fallow are not entitled to it.

4. In the recovery of arrears, the orders already issued should be very strictly carried out. There should be no further delay in rigorously enforcing the provisions of the law against defaulters about whose possession of means to pay there is no doubt. For the present, others should be in no way pressed. The instruction that no order of destraint, which of course should be held applicable to forfeiture of land, shall be issued by an officer below the grade of Assistant or Deputy Collector must be adhered to pending further orders without any modification whatever, and Government will notice with severe displeasure any departure from it which comes to their knowledge. The Collectors should make all subordinate officers clearly understand that the adoption by them of any measures which are not authorised by the law or orders will meet with punishment.

5. When, however, the condition of the crops is definitely known, it should be considered whether the outturn is such as to admit of the payment of a part or whole of the arrears, as well as of the current year's revenue, without unduly curtailing the cultivators' means of subsistence. Such occupants as get good crops on a considerable area of land, may be able to discharge all their dues without difficulty. In other cases in which the occupants are not clearly well-to-do, it may be desirable to recover a part only of the arrears and leave the balance for levy in future years. In cases in which, owing to the small size of the holding or the poverty of the crop, the outturn is not such as will leave any balance after discharging the year's assessment and supplying the means of subsistence until another harvest, the arrears may be at once remitted.

6. His Excellency the Governor in Council recognizes that considerable trouble will be involved in carrying out these orders, but it is impossible otherwise to combine the recovery of such revenue as in the interests of the State ought to be levied with such relief as may be fairly accorded to impoverished cultivators, and he confidently relies on the officers of Government to spare no pains to secure that object. Timely steps should be taken to obtain such detailed information as is necessary for the purpose, the Circle Inspectors being required to complete their inspections and write up their books without any avoidable delay. As regards the kharif crops Village Form No. 3, Part I., should be filled up by village officers before the end of September. The Circle Inspectors should conduct their inspections and checks of the forms, not merely after the completion of the form by the village officers, but during its compilation, in order that its progress and the genuineness of the field inspections by the village officers may be assured. A second inspection of the rabi-sown areas should be made by the village officers in November, and should be subjected to similar check by the Circle Inspectors. The check should be principally directed to the correct registration of the areas left unsown. Returns of such areas should be compiled number by number for each village and submitted to the Collector under the certificate of the Circle Inspector that he has personally inspected the village and believes the return to be correct. The work of the Circle Inspectors must be diligently supervised and checked by the Mamlatdars and Assistant and Deputy Collectors, as well as by the District Inspector and Superintendent of Land Records and Agriculture. As soon as possible after the prospects of the rabi harvest are known, there should be submitted to Government estimates of the amounts likely to be collected on account of the revenue of the year, and on account of arrears, also of the amount of arrears which should be held over for recovery in future years, and of the amount which should be remitted at once.

MORTALITY IN GUJARAT.

No. 72.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine, No. 1010–*F. dated Simla, the* 18*th May*, 1900.

Your letter No. 471-M., dated 10th May. Government of India are greatly concerned at terrible mortality shown by March death-rates of districts in Northern Division, and they fear that no improvement has since taken place. They would suggest that expansion of village gratuitous relief and of kitchen relief may possibly be required.

No. 73.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2369, *dated Bombay Castle, the* 26*th May*, 1900.

With reference to your telegram No. 1010-F. of 18th instant, I am directed to make the following remarks for the information and consideration of the Government of India in amplification of my telegram No. 678, dated 24th instant, which was as follows :—

"Your telegram 1010-F. of 18th. Extension of dole to people leaving works from illness and to such scared away by cholera as are in danger of starvation has been for some time authorised. This Government having consulted Commissioner think more liberal gratuitous relief would involve great danger of general demoralization and abandonment of works. Letter follows."

2. The exceedingly high mortality in Gujarát districts has been for some time a matter of the gravest anxiety and perplexity to His Excellency the Governor in Council. The causes of it are still being investigated by the Sanitary Commissioner, to whom all assistance available for the purpose has been offered. The Commissioner, N. D., has expressed the opinion that the general cause is the novel shock of famine to people used to good wages and comparatively luxurious food and easy life. This theory, which has been adopted by some of the Collectors, clearly cannot apply to the Panch Mahâls, where the death-rate has been highest, as the great bulk of the inhabitants of that district are more inured to privation than those of any other district in the Presidency. In Ahmedabad and Broach whilst the mortality has been very high the average cost of relief on works has been materialy greater than elsewhere, partly it is believed because the wage was calculated on a basis very favourable to the worker and partly because deduction for short work was not common. So far as experience in any other part of India is a guide, the wage which it is open to every able-bodied person to earn is sufficient for the maintenance of health and strength and the moderate amount of work which is exacted is calculated to be beneficial rather than injurious. Further, the testimony, medical and other, is virtually unanimous that with rare exceptions, almost all of new-comers, the physical condition of people while on the works is good.

3. As regards gratuitous relief this Government have continuously enjoined on the collectors the necessity of giving it to all who are entitled to it under the rules of the Code. It has been directed that in any case in which the death of a resident is considered to be due to starvation it should be explained how it became possible if village inspection and village relief were properly organized. Preference has been expressed for relief by cooked food so far as it is convenient

and practicable, but it has been repeatedly ordered that infirm people should not be required to go an unreasonable distance for the purpose and that the dole should be given to any who have *bonâ fide* scruples about the receipt of cooked food. The need of giving temporary relief to destitute wanderers until they can be sent to a poor-house has also been pointed out, and an order* of which a copy accompanies, has been passed for the conveyance of such persons to a poorhouse and for their compulsory residence there unless or until they are able and willing to work. It has been reported from several districts that people falling ill on works will not go to the hospital but return to their homes. The admission of them to the dole until they are able to work has been authorised, it being at the same time directed that all possible efforts should be made to keep them on the works, such as have a repugnance to the hospital being, if practicable, treated in separate huts. It has also been ordered that such of the very large numbers of people frightened from the works by outbreaks of cholera as are in danger of starvation should receive gratuitous relief, but that the principles enunciated in Sections 49 *(f)* and 61 *(a)* of the Famine Relief Code should be adhered to. There can be little doubt that if there is any lax distribution of gratuitous relief to able-bodied people, the works will be abandoned and general demoralization will result. The Commissioner, N. D., reports that "many if not most of the deaths have been among person returning sick from the works or already on the dole or otherwise moderately provided for; most of the remainder are among vagrants, very difficult to deal with." On the whole His Excellency in Council is of opinion that the high mortality cannot be attributed to any undue restriction of gratuitous relief and that no material expansion of it is possible without risk of widespread demoralization.

* Government Resolution No. 2289, dated 15th May, 1900.

4. At the same time it is recognized that the situation is exceedingly grave and that no measure which gives promise of alleviation should be omitted. The mortality already high from causes not discovered has been greatly increased by cholera and it can scarcely be hoped that it will be possible to give relief in time to all of the many thousands of people who have deserted the works on account of violent outbreaks of that disease. The Commissioner, N. D., has been authorised to open small village works to the extent to which reasonably efficient supervision, including that of influential non-official gentlemen, is available. It is probable that many who are deterred by fear of cholera from returning to the larger works will accept employment nearer home on somewhat smaller wages. At the same time the larger works on which cholera has been epidemic are closed and others opened in their stead. There have been appointed to Gujarát Districts 33 additional European officers, including six medical men, and one native Commissioned officer to assist in checking the spread of cholera, to induce able-bodied persons in need to go to the works and to see that gratuitous relief is properly administered. Such intelligent native non-commissioned officers and privates as the military authorities can spare are also being employed. It does not appear to the Governor in Council that it is possible to do more with hope of effect or without risk of evil results, but if any other measure likely to be useful suggests itself to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, this Government will willingly try it.

5. Reverting to the question of the probable causes of the exceedingly high death-rates, I am to state that His Excellency in Council hesitates to express any definite opinion until the investigation is complete. There will however be found in another letter which will follow evidence of extensive immigration into at least one district. A large proportion of the immigrants arrive in a reduced and many in a moribund condition. This is especially the case with those attracted to large towns by the hope of private charity, and these will neither go of their own accord to or willingly stay in poor-houses. The deaths of these immigrants disproportionately increase the registered rate of mortality, which is calculated on the resident population. There is however little doubt that the mortality amongst that population is also great. The diseases returned are mainly diarrhœa, dysentery and fever, but the Sanitary Commissioner says that the symptons as regards the last are not those of famine fever. The unusual brackishness of water in this year of excessive drought which was found to be

injurious to many of the irrigated crops may be also deleterious to the human system. Works on which virulent outbreaks of cholera occurred have been specially mentioned as those which many people previously left on account of illness, and in both cases it seems probable that the cause was to be found in the water. A full report will however be submitted as soon as the investigation is complete.

Enclosure in No. 73.

No. 2289, *dated Bombay Castle, the* 15*th May*, 1900.

Resolution.—The Commissioner, N.D., has already been authorised by telegram to direct that all destitute wanderers be taken by force if necessary to a poor-house and compelled to stay there unless or until they are able and willing to work. In the Gujarat Districts, where cholera is prevailing in an epidemic form, a notification under the Epidemic Diseases Act would place the legality of this course beyond question. But His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that similar action should be taken wherever there is acute famine and that it is justified by the fact that it constitutes the only effective means of saving the lives of these people. In the Report of the Indian Famine Commission of 1880, Volume III, page 181, it is stated with reference to suggestions to give power of compulsion by legislation :—" It does not appear however that the absence of this legal authority hampered officers to any material extent in doing what they felt to be the wisest and most humane thing for these paupers." It has generally been assumed that a poor-house as distinct from a kitchen is a place where the ordinary inmates are compelled to reside, and effect should be given everywhere to this principle.

2. Separate orders have been or will be issued on the questions of dealing with people who have left works on account of cholera and of supplying more European officers.

Annexure I. to Government Resolution, Famine Department, No. 2289, dated 15th May, 1900.

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D. to the Chief Secretary to Government, Famine Department, No. 4738, *dated* 1*st May*, 1900.

I have the honour to report the information I receive from the distressed districts of this Division in order to place on record some hint of the conditions the Collectors and their staffs have now to deal with and also for any instructions that Government may be pleased to issue.

2. The Collector of Ahmedabad says the number of starving destitute round the city is " appalling." They won't go to the poor-houses of which there are several if they have to stay in them. Nor will they work. The only condition on which they will accept help is that they are allowed to wander away after a meal and hang about the roads for casual charity. The ambulance system started under this office circular of 31st March, of course, only touches them when they have reached the stage of exhaustion. The foolish practice of giving alms without any system is no doubt largely responsible for this. It has drawn and continues to draw the lazy and the vagrant as to a great centre from miles around Additional troubles are a recent outbreak of cholera in the Government poor-house, and the death yesterday from small pox of Mr. Manibhai Premabhai, President of the Municipality, a most benevolent and energetic citizen, who will be greatly missed.

3. In Kaira cholera has broken out on five large works, and the people are leaving them in large numbers. The problem is what to do with them in their villages. If they are put on the dole right off, every one will leave the works and go home to live for nothing. If not given dole, they will die in crowds. At present the Collector is holding his hand in the hope that cholera will decrease and that there will be a reflux back to the works.

4. In the Panch Mahals the Collector has already officially reported direct to you in his No. 2,523 of 28th ultimo the outbreak of cholera on the Kanelao Tank, the "horror" of which is described by a cool-headed man like Mr. Stewart as "beyond description." The people of course have left and the same difficulties threaten as in Kaira.

5. The only immediate course I have to respectfully suggest is that, if anyhow possible, more European help of the right sort may be afforded. The unexpected difficulty of dealing with people even in the Kaira District who are unwilling to go upon any work indicates the necessity of dividing the district up into smaller sections than hitherto with a superior officer over it responsible for supervision of all phases of famine relief, including village inspection.

Annexure II.

Telegram from the Chief Secretary to Government, Famine Department, to the Commissioner, N. D., No. 409, dated 4th May, 1900.

Your letter 4,738 of 1st instant, paragraph 2. You are authorized to direct that all destitute wanderers be taken by force if necessary to a poor-house and compelled to stay there unless or until they are able and willing to work.

No. 74.

No. 2,407, dated Bombay Castle, the 30th May, 1900.

Government memorandum to the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. M.—505, dated 12th May, 1900 :—

"The undersigned presents compliments to the Collector of the Panch Mahals, and is directed to request that he will be good enough to submit at once a report on the statements contained in the letter from Mr. F. C. Aldrich published in the *Times of India* of the 11th May, 1900, and if they are true, or even approximately true, to furnish an explanation how, and why, and through whose negligence things have been allowed to reach such a pass."

Government memorandum to the Commissioner, N. D., No. M.—506, dated 12th May, 1900—Forwarding a copy of the above.

Telegram from the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), dated 17th May, 1900.

"Attention of Government of India has been attracted to article headed 'Famine scenes in Dohad,' published in *Pioneer*, 14th May, and they will be glad to receive at an early date a report as to the amount of truth there is in this article."

Letter from the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. 3,122, dated, 22nd May, 1900 :—

"I have the honour to submit the following report on the letter from Mr. F. C. Aldrich, published in the *Times of India* of the 11th instant, as called for in your memorandum No. M.—505 of the 12th instant.

"2. I would premise by saying that neither I nor any other officer in this district has any idea who Mr. Aldrich is. I gather from his letter that he went to Dohád by the only train in the day from A'nand, arriving there at 12.52, and left by the only returning train at 15.43. The result of this visit of something under three hours is a letter which is not only highly coloured, but as misleading as casual observation and most imperfect enquiry could make it.

"3. The Dohád-Limdi Road work being nearly completed, work was opened on the Dohád Tank in the middle of March and in the week ending April 28th there was an average daily attendance of 7,317 workers with a daily average of 936 dependants and children fed in the kitchen. As Government are aware cholera broke out in a very severe form over a great part of the country in the end of April. On May 1st, as cases were reported from Dohád, I went there for the day to see that proper arrangements were made for the prisoners in the jail and inhabitants of the poor-house. There had then been two or three cases on the relief work, but it was hoped that anything like a severe outbreak might be prevented On the 2nd, however, 54 deaths occurred, and on the 3rd, 67, and on that date Captain Southey who is in

charge of the works in Dohád and Jhálod under the Executive Engineer closed the tank work and made immediate arrangements for opening work on the Dohád-Alirájpur Road at a spot about 4 miles from Dohád town. As a matter of fact men had been working for some days at that spot and at two other places close by, digging wells to secure an adequate supply of water in case an outbreak of cholera rendered it necessary to move the camp. Work was opened at the new camp on the 7th, and subsequently the people were transferred to the Muwála Tank site which is between two and three miles from Dohád. There has been for months a work in progress at Garbádu, 12 miles from Dohád to the south, and since the middle of March a large tank work also at Jhálod, 22 miles to the north. So much for the arrangements for workers. No one was ever transferred to a work 25 miles off. Every one coming was taken on at the nearest work which was less than five miles off.

"4. Next as to people unable to work. From the beginning of January there has been a poor-house in Dohád, not hidden away as one might imagine from the fact that Mr Aldrich fails to mention it, but open to everyone asking for relief and open to everyone to inspect. The average daily numbers in it were 718 in the week ending April 21st, 584 in the week ending April 28th, and 501 in the week ending May 5th, a large decrease, though, as I will show, numbers of people were collected in Dohád town and sent into it. It needs more than a casual visit to appreciate the difficulties of dealing with Bhils. With regular meals they cannot be got to stay in the poor-house, and though given clothing to cover their naked bodies, they sell it and appear as naked again. When I went to the poor-house on the 1st there were holes all round the enclosure where people had broken out during the night urged by fear of cholera or by some wandering instinct which will not let them keep still. Presumably Mr. Aldrich was not informed of the outbreak of cholera, as he says nothing of it. Anyone who knows what it means when cholera breaks out in a camp of 7,000 Bhils, when the sweepers strike and the Hospital Assistant, the only available medical aid, promptly applies for leave as was the case at Dohád, would scarcely be surprised at seeing dead bodies; but the picture presented by Mr. Aldrich's letter is a misrepresentation which, when made without any attempt at enquiry, is very little removed from a deliberate falsehood. In his very first paragraph he presents a terrible scene of starving people sitting down beneath trees to shelter themselves from the pitiless sun. Considering that his visit was at the hottest time of the day when no work is done and everyone seeks what shade can be got, the description is nothing but sensational nonsense. If Mr. Aldrich could speak to the people he would very soon have found out the truth, but as he has lamentably failed to do so, it is but fair to conclude that he does not know the language, and is drawing entirely on his imagination when he retails their statements that there is no one to give.

"5. As to the second paragraph it is true that there were bodies in the nála east of the town. They had been collected there to be burned, but it most emphatically is not true that there was lying in the town the body of a woman who had died two days before. It is also true that the non-official members of the Dohád Municipality have done nothing to help. The richer people of the town promised handsome subscriptions, of which they have paid nothing, and in January, when I camped at Dohád, the Hindus were giving indigestible food to a disorderly mob of people and children without arrangement or method, but that the official members of the Municipality have made no arrangements is not true. From the beginning emaciated people have been regularly removed from the town to the poor-house, and when, owing to the almost total failure of the mhowra crop, the number of destitute Bhils thronging into the town increased, it was divided into four regular wards with a special peon in charge of each, and two carts were employed to carry people to the poor-house. When cholera broke out the District Deputy Collector came into Dohád from his camp, and on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th was moving about in the town from 7 to 11 each morning, and on the 4th itself had a dozen carts working. The number of people thus conveyed to the poor-house by the Municipality from within Municipal limits was, for the week ending April 21st, 435, for the week ending April 28th, 350, for the week ending May 5th, 739, the total number admitted to the poor-house for the three weeks aggregating 1,941, and the total of those sent to work and those who ran away 1,224. It will thus be seen that it was only by the persistent efforts of the Municipal executive that people could be kept in the poor-house at all. In case the large number of runaways may be ascribed to unkind treatment, I may point out that the same difficulty has been experienced in Jhálod, where for some time a most kindly and sympathetic missionary was in charge of the poor-house, and in Godhra, where the chance of a small handful of grain from some shopkeeper has induced people over and over again to break out of the poor-house at night. The concluding paragraphs of Mr. Aldrich's letter are pure sensation, and do not seem to call for any special remarks. On the day he went to Dohád there were there besides the local officials, viz., the District Deputy Collector and the Mámlatdár, Captain Southey, I.S.C., on duty at the relief camp, and Lieutenant James, I.S.C., who went there especially on the 3rd to look after the poor-house. Mr. Aldrich can scarcely have failed in his walk through the town to see the fort in which the Mámlatdár's office is situated, or the bungalow in which the European officers were living, yet to not one of these officers did he go to enquire what was being done or could be done. Captain Southey writes to me that on the 4th he was engaged the whole morning in collecting from the tank and its vicinity the bodies of those who had died of cholera the previous night and that day, and that in the evening he went round again and could not see one left. He adds that there was great difficulty in getting the work done as the sweepers had all bolted

and he considers that so far from doing nothing, the municipal authorities had got the place cleared as soon as they possibly could. He himself saw the municipal carts at work at 5.30 a.m.

"6. I am sending this report through the Commissioner, who himself went to Dohád on the 5th, and he will be able to say whether the state of things on that day gives any ground for believing the picture presented of the previous day, and I would merely add a hope that Government will not allow an imputation of this sort published in the public press to rest upon officers who had been working for now nearly nine months to save life amongst a people who will not work nor be regularly fed, and who, if they are to be saved at all, must be saved by force in spite of themselves."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 5,640, dated the 23rd May, 1900 :—

"Forwarded.

"The Commissioner can corroborate Mr. Stewart's report of his personal knowledge, having been in Dohad on the 5th, 6th, and 7th May. That distressing scenes were to be witnessed is too true, but nothing else could be expected after such a violent outbreak of cholera, which not only resulted in many deaths on the work, but dispersed 7,000 panic-stricken and destitute people, many of them already seized or about to be seized by the disease. At the poor-house an organised ambulance service was at work, and the poor people, as they were brought in, were either kindly treated in the cholera wards, or, if only exhausted, were fed with milk under the care of a European nurse. All this was as noteworthy as the apathy of the townspeople and the reluctance of the unhappy wanderers to come into the poor house so long as they thought there was a chance of getting a few grains of corn outside from ill-advised charity. Such was the effect of the efforts made that Mr. Lely, on going through part of the town with Captain Southey on the morning of the 7th to see the site of the new work being prepared at Muwala, remarked to his companion that no one would believe from what they saw that there was so much distress in the country."

RESOLUTION.—In the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council the letter of the Collector of the Panch Mahals and the endorsement of the Commissioner, N. D., show conclusively that there are no substantial grounds for the more serious allegations made in a letter signed "F. C. Aldrich," and published in the *Times of India* and *Bombay Gazette* on the 11th instant. In particular it is clear that the persons whose corpses could be seen on the 4th instant were not starved to death but died of cholera, and that there was no avoidable delay in disposing of the dead. The real facts are very deplorable but they could not have been prevented by any exertions on the part of the local officers, while the writer has, through manifestly imperfect information, so distorted them as to make them reflect on the vigilance of these officers, who are carrying out most difficult and unpleasant duties with zeal and determination worthy of all praise.

2. Copies of the letter of the Collector, memorandum of the Commissioner, and of this Resolution, should be forwarded to the Government of India with reference to their telegram of the 17th instant. Copies should also be placed on the Editor's table.

No. 75.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 1,160-*F., dated Simla, the 4th June,* 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2,369, dated 26th May, replying to my telegram of the 18th May, in which it was suggested that, in view of the great mortality occurring in the Northern Division, an expansion of village gratuitous relief and of kitchen relief might possibly be required.

2. It is stated in your letter that the Governor in Council is, on the whole, of opinion that the high mortality cannot be attributed to any undue restriction of gratuitous relief, and that no material expansion of it is possible without the risk of widespread demoralisation; but that he recognizes that the mortality from causes not yet discovered is very high and the situation exceedingly grave.

3. In suggesting that gratuitous relief should be expanded the Governor General in Council did not intend to imply that it had been unduly restricted in the early stages of the famine, or that the present high mortality was attributable to such restriction. What he perceived was that the widespread prevalence of cholera had made the relief work system of the code obnoxious to the people, that there was very great and increasing distress, and very great and increasing mortality, and that along with this urgent and increasing necessity for greater relief the actual amount of relief given was week by week decreasing. In particular the amount of gratuitous relief given in the Gujarat districts was according to the latest figures,* on a much smaller scale than was accepted as reasonable and prudent in other provinces in 1897, and appeared incommensurate with the current reports as to the debilitated condition of large masses of the people. From these considerations the Governor General in Council could not but feel that the relief system in force in Gujarat, however closely it adhered to the prescriptions of the famine code, failed in point of fact, in the special circumstances of the situation, to cope with the prevailing distress, and required to be reconsidered and supplemented by other expedients. The Governor General in Council has no wish to demoralise the people, but at the present time the paramount necessity is to mitigate extreme suffering and to save life, and this will not be attained so long as, owing to the local unsuitability of the relief system in force, relief contracts instead of expanding.

* See appended statement A.

4. The Governor General in Council believes that there is no difference of opinion on this point between himself and the Government of Bombay. He refers to it in order to assure the Government of Bombay that any measures which they may think proper to take in the direction of temporarily relaxing the rules of the famine code, and of bringing effective relief to the people, will have his warmest sympathy and his fullest support. He still considers that the gratuitous relief figures of the Gujarat districts indicate that this kind of relief will admit of considerable expansion before it reaches the point at which demoralisation among the able-bodied is likely to set in. There must be considerably more than 2 per cent. of the population not on relief works, which stands in need of relief and is not able bodied in the usual acceptation of the term. For the able-bodied employment is obviously preferable to gratuitous relief. The Governor General in Council notices with satisfaction that permission has been given to the Commissioner of the Northern Division to open small works and to relax the rule regarding compulsory residence on large works. It is hoped that these concessions will have the effect of attracting again to work the labour which of late has drifted from the large works and is at present wandering aimlessly about the country. The situation appears to be pre-eminently one which requires large discretionary powers and full liberty of action to be entrusted to the chief controlling authority on the spot. If this is not the case at present, it may be advisable for His Excellency in Council to consider whether greater delegation of powers may not be advantageous.

Statement A showing the numbers on relief in the Gujarát districts of the Bombay Presidency on the 17th March, and 19th May, 1900.

District.	Population.	Relief Workers.	Dependants.	Total on Works.	Gratuitous Relief.			Grand Total.	Percentage on Population of Figures in						
					Poor-houses or Kitchens.	Village Doles or other Relief.	Total.		Column 3.	Column 4.	Column 5.	Column 6.	Column 7.	Column 8.	Column 9.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
						17th March, 1900.									
Ahmedabad	921,712	92,146	35,429	127,575	8,709	3,996	12,705	140,280	9·9	3·8	13·8	·9	·4	1·4	15·2
Kaira	871,589	67,884	7,582	75,466	5,193	4,608	9,801	85,267	7·8	0·8	8·6	0·6	0·5	1·1	9·7
Panch Mahals...	313,417	15,622	2,573	18,195	2,174	270	2,444	20,639	5·0	0·8	5·8	0·6	0·1	0·7	6·5
Broach	341,490	99,400	15,889	115,289	1,424	2,725	4,149	119,438	29·1	4·6	33·7	0·4	0·8	1·2	34·9
Surat	649,989	15,391	792	16,183	—	553	553	18,247	2·4	·1	2·5	...	·1	·1	2·8
						19th May, 1900.									
Ahmedabad	921,712	66,716	20,222	86,938	9,164	8,176	17,340	104,278	7·2	2·2	9·4	1·0	0·9	1·9	11·3
Kaira	871,589	53,890	7,437	61,327	3,637	15,239	18,876	80,203	6·2	0·8	7·0	0·4	1·7	2·2	9·2
Panch Mahals...	313,417	23,635	4,316	27,951	3,215	4,575	7,790	35,741	7·5	1·4	9·0	1·0	1·4	2·5	11·4
Broach	341,490	59,780	10,191	69,971	2,138	6,296	8,434	78,405	17·5	2·9	20·5	0·6	1·8	2·4	22·9
Surat	649,989	4,669	1,123	5,792	290	2,565	2,855	8,647	0·7	0·2	0·9	0·0	0·4	0·4	1·3

No. 76.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2,586, dated Bombay Castle, the 19th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1,160-F., dated 4th instant, communicating remarks on the advisability of temporarily relaxing the rules of the Famine Code with a view to bringing effective relief to the people in urgent need of it. In reply I am to state for the information of the Government of India that copies of the correspondence ending with the letter have been forwarded to the Commissioner, N. D., and he has been authorized to direct such an expansion of gratuitous relief as is desired by the Government of India in all places where the circumstances appear to require it and also to adopt any other measure to which in his opinion immediate effect should be given for the purpose of meeting the difficulties now existing in the administration of relief.

2. With reference to the suggestion at the close of your letter, I am to state that it has been the practice of the Commissioners in accordance with the principle embodied in Section 29 of the Famine Relief Code to issue orders at once in all cases of urgency not involving a departure from a principle of importance, and report their proceedings for approval. This course has been generally adopted by the Commissioner, N. D., in the matter of gratuitous relief, and no objection has been made to any of the directions issued by him ; in fact, on recent occasions he has been authorized to show even increased liberality. The reference to Sections 49 (*f*) and 61 (*a*) of the Code is not an exception, for it was made with regard to the statement in paragraph 3 of his letter No. 4,738, dated 1st May, 1900, that if people leaving the works on account of cholera "are put on the dole right off, every one will leave the works and go home to live for nothing." When in his instructions to the Collector of the Panch Mahals he said that to those who are able-bodied or only temporarily weak from the want of food "relief cannot be offered except for work without bringing about a yet greater evil than starvation," this Government in their Resolution No. 2,439, dated 1st June, 1900, pointed out that in accordance with paragraph 486 of the Famine Commission's Report, the recommendations contained in which had been ordered to be adopted in the Panch Mahals, the dole must be given temporarily to "persons showing signs of emaciation or physically capable of doing only very light nominal work." Other orders have been issued for the purpose of ensuring that gratuitous relief shall be given to all entitled, and none for the purpose of restricting any measure of relief of this kind proposed by the Commissioner or any Collector. If therefore the last two sentences of your letter are intended to imply that sufficient powers may not have been delegated to the Commissioner and that as a consequence there may have been an undue limitation of gratuitous relief, I am directed to request that you will be so good as to assure the Government of India that such is not the case.

3. I am to add that the process of getting on the dole list such of the people deserting works on account of cholera as are in need of gratuitous relief is necessarily a slow one, but there has been in all the Gujarat Districts except Broach since the beginning of May a continuous increase, and the proportions on the population of persons gratuitously relieved in villages in the week ending 9th instant were as follows :—

Village.	Percentage.
Ahmedabad	3·50
Panch Mahâls	5·97
Kaira	2·35
Broach	2·80
Surat (only partially affected) ...	1·77

People are also returning rapidly to the works in all Gujarat Districts and the Collector of Kaira reports that such as he saw on their way back did not seem to have suffered.

Enclosure in No. 76.

No. 2,439, *dated Bombay Castle, the* 1*st June*, 1900.

Letter from the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. 3,071, dated 19th May, 1900 :—

"I have the honour to invite your attention to the diary of the special Aval Karkun of Godhra for the week ending the 11th, which I forward herewith. In forwarding the previous week's diary I pointed out that the Aval Karkun had put on the dole list over 10 per cent. of the population of the villages visited. In the week for which the diary is now submitted, in seven villages, with an estimated population of 2,850 people, he has put on the list 505, or just under 18 per cent. Under existing orders to consider the idiosyncrasies of the people, the Aval Karkun is not wrong, but I desire to point out clearly that the idiosyncrasy here is nothing but a distaste of work. Very many of these people can work and will not. If they are left alone they get gradually weaker and die, and as Mr. Rendall points out, they very soon find out that the alternative to going to a relief work is starvation for a few days and then the dole, or in many cases merely refusal to work and then the dole. Daily payments are being made on all the works, and I have just sent 39 school masters to aid in the payments and have got a large supply of copper. The choice lies between facing an enormous mortality and facing a dole list which means practically the pauperization of the whole district. To avoid the former we are rapidly attaining the latter, and I bring it specially to your notice before things go further."

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., to the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. 5,528, dated 21st May, 1900 :—

"There is no doubt that in your No. 3,071 of 19th inst., you have stated a very real dilemma of famine administration. It is more pressing in your district because of the large population of Bhils and others, who though more civilized in some respects than their compeers elsewhere, retain the aversion to regular life and work which characterized their forefathers.

"2. The following is the course which I think you should take.

"3. Unless you have already done so, I should split up each Special Aval Karkun's charge into smaller sections, more easy of management by one man. You have probably done this already, as several officers have been put at your disposal who know Gujarati and are therefore fitted for this work.

"4. I should then instruct each officer in charge of a section to go from village to village, and assemble in each village all those who had no means of subsistence, including all on the Aval Karkun's list. By preference he should select the day on which dole is distributed. Those who are really unable to work even after a few days' feeding he should confirm on the dole list. Those who are able-bodied or only temporarily weak from want of food he should call up and warn very clearly that Government would not feed them unless they worked and insist on their going to the works. The weaker ones he should send in carts to the works with a note to the officer in charge to take them on at first as nominal workers.

"5. You are I know starting more small works, and this is necessary, for it is too much to ask people of this sort to go at this season of the year, and when cholera is prevalent, 15 miles from their villages.

"6. Something will depend on the personal influence of the officer, but I am not unaware of the difficulties. Many will decline to go or will run away at the first opportunity. To such it seems to me that relief cannot be offered except for work without bringing about a yet greater evil than starvation. The last device of the lazy will be to stay in the village or return to it and share the dole received by the real incapables. You have already, I believe, noted on the readiness with which the Bhil will share his handful of grain with his friends and relations. Something may still be done by insistence and tact on the part of the local officer, and that is in this last resort all we have to look to."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 5,529, dated 21st May, 1900 :—

"Copy together with copy of Collector's letter No. 3,071, dated 19th May, 1900, submitted to Government for information."

RESOLUTION.—The instructions issued by the Commissioner, N. D., are in accordance with the orders of Government, provided the dole is given temporarily to "persons showing signs of emaciation or physically capable of doing only very light nominal work" (paragraph 486 of the Famine Commission's report), and subject to that proviso are approved. If by "existing orders to consider the idiosyncrasies of the people" the Collector refers to Government Resolution No. 2,069, dated 21st April, 1900, it is not clear that he has correctly understood it. There is no authority in it for giving the dole to people who can work, but the idiosyncrasies of really infirm people entitled to gratuitous relief are to be considered by giving them the dole if they will die rather than go to a poor-house or kitchen.

No. 77.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 1,307 *F., dated Simla, the* 26*th June,* 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2,586, dated 19th June, 1900, reporting that the Commissioner, Northern Division, has been authorised to direct such an expansion of gratuitous relief as is desired by the Government of India in all places where the circumstances appear to require it, and also to adopt any other measure which he may consider to be immediately required for the purpose of meeting the difficulties now existing in the administration of relief.

2. The Governor General in Council is relieved to find that this action has been taken, and trusts that it may result in a perceptible diminution of the death-rate, and in ameliorating the condition of the distressed population of the famine districts. He observes that the latest returns from the Presidency show a materal expansion of relief under all heads, and he is glad to learn that the relief-workers, whose numbers have of late greatly decreased owing to the mortality and panic occasioned by virulent outbreaks of cholera, are now reported to be rapidly returning to the works in all the districts. His Excellency in Council desires to record again his deep sympathy with the Government of Bombay in the great difficulties which have beset the administration of famine relief in Gujarat, and his anxiety to place at their disposal whatever assistance may be in his power.

3. His Excellency in Council is glad to receive, and readily accepts, the assurance that sufficient powers have throughout been accorded to the Commissioner of the Division. The remarks made in my former letter as to the desirability of such delegation of powers for the successful conduct of a famine campaign were meant to lay stress on a principle of primary importance, which the Governor General in Council could not omit to mention in passing under review the possible remedies for a very exceptional and critical situation.

No. 78.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1,367-*P., dated Poona, the* 21*st July,* 1900.

I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of India the accompanying copies of reports from the Collectors of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, and the Panch Mahals on the subject of the causes of excessive

mortality in these districts, together with a copy of the memorandum from Government calling for them. The Governor in Council had hoped to have by this time more complete material for consideration of the question, but the report of the Sanitary Commissioner, which should form the most important contribution, is not likely to be ready for several weeks to come. In the circumstances it is considered desirable to put his Excellency the Governor General in Council now in possession of all the information which this Government have so far obtained. The purport of it has already been communicated, but the detailed reports may be of use.

2. It is impossible at present to gauge the extent to which the recorded rates of mortality have been swelled by the deaths of immigrants, but there is no doubt that the mortality amongst residents has been very high. It would be premature to attempt now an analysis of the causes. But the prominent fact is that the character of many of the classes of the people is such as to render futile all attempts to give them relief on reasonable conditions. The Government of India are aware from copies of the orders which have been sent to them that wherever the progress reports, which have for some months past been submitted every fortnight, or other reports, indicated that a relaxation of test was desirable, it has been promptly directed, and every effort has been made to restrict fines to cases of contumacy. But many would not go to works on any conditions or even remain in poor-houses. It is possible that the mortality might have been somewhat less if all such had got relief in their own homes. But such a course could not have been adopted without the risk of pauperizing the greater part of the community. It has been directed throughout that the recommendations of the Famine Commissioners with regard to aboriginal tribes should be made applicable to the Bhils in the Panch Mahals, and they have been applied in the later stages, but in the earlier stages of the famine these people lived mainly on the flesh of animals which died or were killed by them. Even according to these recommendations, however, the dole can be given temporarily only to such as show signs of emaciation, or are physically incapable of doing the ordinary work. It is exceedingly difficult with such establishment as is available to have this criterion properly applied, and, as is indicated in the letter of the Collector of the Panch Mahals, the digestion of a person subsisting on innutritous food may be ruined before he is considered eligible for the dole.

3. Since cholera dispersed people employed on works, there has been a gradual increase in gratuitous relief, and there are now nearly 218,000 persons in receipt of the dole in Gujarat, the number in the rest of the Presidency being under 103,000. It is impossible to contemplate this fact without apprehension of the ultimate consequences. At the same time, however, very large numbers have returned or gone anew to the works.

Enclosure 1 in No. 78.

Memo. from J. Monteath, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay, to the Commissioner of the Northern Division, No. M-269 (Famine), dated Mahableshwar, the 23rd April, 1900.

The undersigned presents compliments to the Commissioner, Northern Division, and in forwarding the accompanying statements of mortality in whole districts, and on relief works, and in poor-houses respectively for Gujarat districts for three months ending February, is directed to point out that, although the mortality on works and in poor-houses has in some cases been excessively high, it in no case amounts to a large proportion of the total mortality, and leaves a very large mortality in towns and villages to be accounted for. The Honourable Mr. Lely is requested to report, after very careful inquiry, whether, in view of these figures, he is able to say that village inspection and village relief are being carried out with proper care and vigilance. If every village is visited every week or 10 days by a Circle Inspector, and the

work of these Inspectors is thoroughly supervised, it is difficult to understand how many people can die of actual insufficiency of food. Some inquiry should also be made as to the registration. Village officers are not ordinarily, perhaps, apt to err in the direction of recording deaths which do not actually occur, but the death-rate in some of the districts has, it is believed, far exceeded that ever recorded in any famine district before, and as no adequate explanation seems yet to have been discovered, inquiry regarding all points which might affect the rate of mortality is necessary. The Sanitary Commissioner is also being asked to make careful investigation of other points.

Enclosure 2 in No. 78.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. F. S. P. Lely, Commissioner, Northern Division, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, Memo. No. F-365, dated Ahmedabad, the 26th May, 1900.

Two reports from the Collectors of Ahmedabad and Kaira are submitted to Government with reference to their memorandum No. M-269, dated 23rd April, 1900. Reports from the Collectors of Broach and Panch Mahals will be submitted as soon as received.

2. The Commissioner does not propose to forestall the complete summary of evidence regarding the great mortality which no doubt will be made after the famine is over and when there is more time to study the facts. At present he entirely agrees with the estimate of the main causes as given by Mr. Quin and, less fully, by Mr. Gibb.

3. As indicating how a large number of the deaths may be due to causes other than simple "starvation," it may be mentioned that in the Mahipatram Orphanage at Ahmedabad there were 800 children, who were all well fed and in good condition. During the first 20 days of May 150 of them died of influenza or some such disease.

4. For village inspection the staff was sufficient, but their task has been greatly embarrassed by the fact that many refused to go to work who could not be put on dole without demoralizing both them and the rest of the people. This consideration naturally had more weight in the earlier part of the year when there were still many small helps to a living in the villages. Judging by the diaries received, the Inspecting Officers have been active, though it goes without saying that their work has not always been perfect, especially with respect to the large numbers of wanderers from outside which, especially in Ahmedabad, have largely swelled the death roll.

Annexure I.

Letter from M. C. Gibb, Esq., Collector of Ahmedabad, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. F-1875, dated Ahmedabad, the 10th May, 1900.

I have the honour to report on the subject of your No. 4608 of 27th April, 1900, below Government memorandum No. 269 of 23rd idem.

2. I append a statement showing the deaths in the different circles for December, January, and February, with monthly rates per mille.

3 It will be seen that far the heaviest death-rates occur in the Viramgam and Prantij (which includes Modasa) rural circles, and in the Ahmedabad, Gogha, Viramgam, and Dholka town circles.

4. The high death-rate in Ahmedabad city and Viramgam and Dholka towns is in great part attributable to the large number of deaths among immigrant paupers. A good many deaths in the rural circles are probably attributable to the same cause The high death-rate in Gogha town is probably due to deaths on the work being included.*

* I have not verified this.

5. The death-rate from fever and bowel complaints among people who are not actually famine stricken is large and I should attribute this partly, at all events, to their having to live on less nutritious food than usual. Thus persons who usually can afford a little milk or ghee may be this year only able to afford just enough to buy absolute necessaries, and, without their usual small luxuries, fall an easy prey to disease. Numbers of persons who are not accustomed to it, lived on the roots of nulreeds (bir), a diet to which usually only a few of the poorer classes, living near the *nul*, resort. I am told that in Dhanduka there were numerous deaths from bowel complaints due to eating this unsuitable food.

6. In Ahmedabad, and possibly elsewhere, there has been a good deal of influenza, and the infant mortality has also been high.

7. When workers get ill they frequently leave the work and wander about instead of going to hospital. Numbers again stay on in their villages earning only just enough to support life by selling head-loads of firewood or digging up roots of grass.

8. I cannot attempt any answer to the question asked in (1) of your paragraph 1, though your suggestion appears reasonable; as to your question (2), I have answered that to some extent in paragraph 7 above.

9. Regarding question asked in your paragraph 3. The *talatis* stay in their villages more regularly than usual, but neither they nor the *mukhis* do what they ought in finding out distress. The Circle Inspector staff is, I think, sufficient except perhaps in Daskroi. Even in Daskroi the Circle Inspectors can visit each village once a fortnight. In most talukas he can, and does, visit each village oftener. Generally speaking, those who die of actual starvation are wanderers, and though village officers have orders to put such on dole if really starving they have very insufficiently carried them out.

10. Ambulance parties are working in and near Ahmedabad, Viramgam and at some other places.

11. Your last paragraph. The works are visited frequently but I have given no directions as to how often each work should be visited by each Assistant Deputy Collector or Mamlatdar. I have always found that all these officers were thoroughly cognizant of how works were going. I am confident that the works have on the whole been very well managed though there have been instances, such as you refer to, of people not getting taken on at once and consequently going away. Such, however, have been the exception, and generally I think have occurred through no fault of the superior staff, the parties applying to some temporary low-paid subordinate who has neglected to tell them where to go.

Annexure II.

Letter from H. O. Quin, Esq., Collector of Kaira, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. R-3742, dated Camp, Nariad, the 19th May, 1900.

With reference to your No. 4608, dated 27th ultimo, I have the honour to submit the following report:—

2. The enormous mortality in this district which is arousing anxiety had been noticed by me before my attention was drawn to it by the remarks of Government. As I have already stated I am of opinion that it is on the whole due to what I would call general famine conditions. That is to say it has not been caused by any epidemic (I omit all reference to the outbreakof cholera which has for the last month been claiming large numbers of victims), nor is it the result of any special or particular cause which can be singled out. The large majority of persons who now swell the death-roll are *dharalas*, a caste of *kolis* whose general characteristics would almost mark them out as designed by nature to fall an easy prey to such a scourge as is now afflicting Gujarat. In the first place, in common with other inhabitants of this favoured Province, they are entirely unused to privation. They have always had no difficulty in getting, without exerting themselves, enough to live on, and I take it that they have been unable to realise what famine would mean to them, or to devise any means of saving themselves. In the second place they are idle, apathetic and thriftless to the last degree. In an ordinary year they are accustomed to do just as little work as they possibly can. In consequence, they have I believe become innately incapable of steady labour; their constant idleness through generations has brought about a constitutional inability to bear the strain of any prolonged effort. The results have been, first, a very great dislike to go to relief works, and subsequently, when imminent starvation has driven them there, failure to do the task demanded of them and to bear the fatigue and exposure which are the inevitable concomitants of labour under famine conditions. The wages they have been able to earn have generally been but scanty and have certainly not sufficed to provide them with the quantity of food to which they are accustomed. A third fact which has tended to the deterioration of the *dharalas'* condition is his unwillingness, resulting indeed in positive refusal, to leave his cattle while they still live. Almost every *dharala* household had at the beginning of the famine a few cows, or buffaloes, and here and there a pair of bullocks, and the insoluble problem for the people was, how to look after and feed their cattle and at the same time to labour on relief

works where of course the animals could not accompany them. To the *dharala* his live-stock represented all he had in the world, and it is not surprising that he should have been loath to leave his cows and his buffaloes to perish of starvation in order that he might toil for a living wage at work which he detested, and to which he had never been accustomed. Efforts were made to induce the people to arrange for one or two members of the family to feed the cattle while the rest went to a relief work, but they were not successful, and it must be remembered that the providing of food for the cattle was no easy matter nor one that required only a small expenditure of time. It involved slowly driving the enfeebled animal round the hedges and fields, so long as they contained any edible weed or creeper, and mounting trees to pick off, often one by one, the leaves which for thousands of cattle throughout the district were practically, through several months, the only nourishment, they obtained.

3. The causes then that I would assign to the high mortality are these :—

(*a*) The not being accustomed to privation and the failure to realise what it would mean ;

(*b*) The dislike to and constitutional unfitness for steady work ; and

(*c*) The attachment to their cattle, which tied them to their villages till they became weak and enfeebled themselves, and were unable to resist any disease which subsequently attacked them.

4. As regards the distribution of the mortality it appears that the death-rate is by no means equal all over the district. To analyse the statistics thoroughly would occupy more time than I can now spare, but I have taken out some figures for February and March which are instructive. On comparing the numbers of deaths during those months, in each taluka with the three-year average number during the same months, the excesses work out as follows :—(The figures are not absolutely correct but are nearly so).

Taluka.	February Excess Percentage.	March Excess Percentage.
Matar	17	40
Mehmadabad	65	157
Nadiad	44	32
Anand	95	99
Borsad	166	162
Thasra	120	93
Kapadwanj	220	208

In these figures the Municipal areas have not been taken into consideration as the deaths in them are largely composed of non-residents, many of whom may have come from other talukas. It will be seen that in Kapadwanj is to be found by far the highest mortality and in Borsad the second highest. Thasra was third in February, but only fifth in March, when the third place was taken by Mehmadabad. Anand is fourth in both months. Matar and Nadiad show the lowest death-rates. As regards Matar, I would explain this by the fact that large numbers of persons left the taluka for Ahmedabad and other places at the beginning of the famine, whole villages almost in the south-west being deserted. Nadiad is a wealthy taluka, and the large towns of Nadiad and Mahudha provide a certain amount of labour.

5. The unenviable pre-eminence of Kapadwanj is not hard to understand. The taluka is the poorest in the district and has the largest population of *dharalas* and the distress was felt there first. The people began early to wander, and large numbers of them became quickly enfeebled. This was evident from the state of affairs visible in the Kapadwanj poor-house and town at an early stage. The relief work was specially unpopular and attracted only an inconsiderable section of the people. The Thasra taluka is also very poor, and in the Mahi side villages there are no wells. The position of Borsad is the most difficult to understand. The north part of the taluka is one of the most fertile and prosperous parts of the district, and in the west there are large and rich villages. The south and east portion, however, along the Mahi has all along been recognised as being in a very bad way, and presumably the highest mortality has taken place there. Anand also is a very prosperous taluka on the whole, but its death-rate is excessive.

6. Turning to the distribution of the mortality amongst different villages, it is impossible without more elaborate statistics than I have before me to say which villages have suffered the most and why. I have, however, some figures for Anand taluka for the four months January to April, which show that the death-rate in that taluka, taken over that period, varied from about 21 per mille per annum in one village to 294 per mille per annum in another. Of course, in dealing with these figures it must be remembered that all percentages are based on the populations as they were before the famine (or perhaps as

they were in 1891), and there is no doubt that some villages have been deserted by their inhabitants to a far greater extent than others. Still making due allowance for this source of error it is clear that the mortality varies immensely between one village and another.

7. Continuing the analysis of the Anand figures, as an illustration, I find that most of the worst affected villages are those in the north and north-east of the taluka, and along the Mahi. These last are badly supplied with wells, which means lack of local work and therefore of the means of earning subsistence. The others are, I believe, inhabited very largely by *dharalas*, amongst whom, as I have already stated, the great majority of the deaths are taking place.

8. I regret that with my present incomplete information I am not able to give details as to other talukas, but I think the figures available show clearly that the mortality has not been evenly distributed over the district, that some talukas have suffered far more than others, and that certain smaller areas can be pointed out wherein the mortality has been excessive, owing to local conditions which tended to bring the people more quickly to the end of their means, or to the fact that there is a very high proportion of *dharalas* amongst the inhabitants. To support the contention that the great majority of deaths are those of *dharalas*, I may state that from figures supplied me by the District Deputy Collector, it would appear that the following are the percentages of deaths amongst *dharalas* to total deaths in three talukas of his charge for the period from January to April :—

Taluka.	Percentage.
Kapadwanj	78
Thasra	64
Anand	50

9. As regards the measures adopted for village inspection you are aware that the whole district was divided into circles in the month of November, 1899. The average circle contained about 15 villages except in Borsad where one large circle contained 32 villages, there being but little distress in that neighbourhood. At first, and in order to make himself acquainted with his charge, each Inspector was ordered to visit each village of this circle within a week. Subsequently the Inspectors were ordered to visit each village once in 15 days, and the Famine Aval Karkuns and Mamlatdars were directed to note the last dates on which any village inspected by them had been visited by the Circle Inspector. Recently the number of circles and Inspectors has been increased, and now each man has 12 villages only, on the average, and has been ordered to visit each once a week. So far as I am informed, and as I have myself seen, the work of the Circle Inspectors has been on the whole well done, and I think most persons eligible for gratuitous relief under the code rules have been admitted to the dole. Each Circle Inspector submits a weekly diary which is checked by the Sub-Divisional officer. The Assistant Collector, Mr. Beyts, reports as follows :—

> "'From the Circle Inspector's diaries and my own village inspection, I can say fairly that in circles up to 15 villages each village was visited at least once in 12 or 13 days, and in circles of 20 villages once a fortnight. Any longer interval was noticed officially by me. I rarely find a person struck off the dole without valid reason, and find that those I consider neglected are nearly always cases in which it is merely a matter of opinion and not of careless work."

The District Deputy Collector, Mr. Modi, is also of opinion that the Circle Inspectors have worked well.

10. No special steps have hitherto been taken by me to ascertain the special cause of the high mortality. It had not occurred to me, nor do I think it likely, that any special enquiries would elicit any information of which we are not already in possession. The general conditions, as reported from the villages in the diaries of the Famine Aval Karkuns being in themselves sufficient to account for a high death-rate no special enquiry was set on foot. In the case of some of the villages near Dakor and one or two in other places I asked the District Medical Officer to visit them, and report as to the condition of the people, my suspicions being aroused by the large numbers put on the dole, but I was given no reason to believe that further investigation would disclose any facts of which we were not already aware.

11. It is true that large numbers of wanderers have died in the vicinity of towns whither they have been attracted by the hope of alms or wages, but I do not consider that these deaths have affected the total mortality of the district to such an extent as you seem to suspect. The excess mortality in the whole district as compared with

the average mortality of the previous years for the months January to March has been as follows :—

Month.	Percentage.
January	99 per cent. or 2,603
February	82 „ „ 2,363
March	141 „ „ 3,814

In municipal areas—and in these poor-houses are included—give the following figures :—

Month.	Percentage.
January	203 per cent. or 841
February	172 „ „ 691
March	215 „ „ 966

Taking the three months together we see that the excess number of deaths over the whole district was 8,780, while in municipal areas the excess number was 2,488, that is to say, that deaths in the neighbourhood of large towns account for a little more than 28 per cent. of the total excess. The proportionate increase in the death-rate of the municipal areas is larger than that in the villages, but the absolute number of deaths in villages remains very high. Ambulance parties are now at work in the vicinity of all towns and some of the larger villages. Orders were long ago issued to village officers to make arrangements for dealing with destitute wanderers; but I am afraid they are not observed as closely as they should be.

12. As regards the management and supervision of works, I can only say that from the first this matter has received the most careful and constant attention of myself, my Assistants, and my Deputy. Under orders from me the Sub-Divisional officers visit each work in their charge at least twice a month. These orders were issued in December last, but even before their issue the Sub-Divisional officers were regularly inspecting the works. The works in the neighbourhood of head-quarters have been periodically inspected by my Personal Assistant, Mr. Swifte, as well as by the assistant in charge of the talukas. The visits to relief works are entered in the diary of the officers concerned, and I am thus in a position to check the work done. I have myself spared no pains to visit all the works in the district as often as I could without neglecting my office work.

13. As regards the question of accuracy of registration which is alluded to in the Government memorandum which has given rise to this report, I have the honour to express my opinion that the registration in this district is distinctly good, and that there is no likelihood whatever of the registered number of deaths being in excess of the actual. Indeed I have reason to believe that all the deaths which have occurred have not been reported to the Sanitary Commissioner, from whom, I presume, Government have received their information. Owing to some misunderstanding the deaths on relief works have been registered by the Special Civil Officers, but not in all cases reported to the village or Municipal authorities, hence the figures for the whole district have not reached the Sanitary Commissioner in a complete form. I am now making enquiries into the matter, and whatever omissions are discovered will be rectified.

Enclosure 3 in No. 78.

Letter from G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector, Broach, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 3983-F., dated Broach, the 26th May, 1900.

With reference to your No. 4608, dated the 27th April last, forwarding Chief Secretary's No. 269-M., dated 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to state that I quite concur with you in thinking that the increased mortality in the district during the months of January, February, and March last was in a measure due to the causes referred to by you. It is a fact that the people in this district have never been inured to privation, and they never had within living memory experienced anything like the terrible distress they have to stand during the present famine. They have for the most part enjoyed favourable harvests, and, except in the case of the poorest classes, the people have lived in greater ease and in much better style than the *rayats* in the Deccan. Even the poorer classes

have always had enough of suitable food superior in kind to that available to their poorer brothers in the south. They have in consequence become more soft and less able to stand on insufficient and unaccustomed food for any length of time than the people in the Deccan. In the Deccan district the people, even in ordinary times, have for the greatest part to live on simple bread and onion with a little salt and *chillies*. On this side the ordinary *rayats* use wheat, pulse, rice and other comforts as part of their usual food. These they cannot afford to get in the present scarcity, and find it difficult to live on the coarse food that they can get. I have noticed that many of the peons getting only 7 or 8 rupees a month daily take tea in the morning, a thing which is certainly not known to many of the clerks or *karkuns* in the Deccan.

2. The land in Gujarat is certainly rich, that is, it gives a good yield in case the rains are favourable, even if the agriculturists do not take so much care about their holdings. In the Deccan, and particularly in Konkan, the case is different. There the cultivators are required to work very hard in their soil to get the small yield their land gives them. The consequence is that they become hardy and are usually accustomed to live on scanty fare from their very boyhood, and so can stand to a far greater extent small distresses. From my own experience I can say that though severe famine was raging in the Bijapur District for about 14 months I did not find a single dead body lying on the roads or in the fields. I cannot say that the grain was cheaper there, or that the relief measures were more favourable. They were just what they are at present, and still I am sorry to say that I find dead bodies lying by the roadside and relief works. The reason is not far to seek. It can be summed up in one word—that the general delicacy of constitution does not permit the Gujaratis to bear the stress of the present scarcity. The lower classes, like *bhils*, are too fond of parched rice, cocoanuts, green dates, sweetmeats, and like kinds of eatables. Even in their present circumstances they cannot withstand the temptation of spending something on these items, which cannot be said to be the necessaries of life, and the consequence is they have to live on insufficient food, and this being continued for some time undermines their condition and disables them to bear any kind of strain. They thus become emaciated and fall easy victims to exhaustion brought on to some extent by themselves.

3. The climate of Gujarat is no doubt enervating, and along with other causes it has not failed to produce its own effects on the condition of the populace. Here one cannot observe fast, or live on coarse food, with the same immunity as one can do in the Deccan.

4. The prominent factor of the high mortality is the mortality among street beggars and wanderers. These beggars and wanderers are an envious sort of people. They cannot be persuaded to go to works or to poor-houses. They will continue their course of begging from house to house without getting sufficient quantity to live upon. This brings on slow but steady emaciation. They flatly decline to join the poor-house as tobacco and opium are not provided therein. For the sake of trial some were forcibly put in the poor house, but they all stealthily left it in a day or two. They thus become quite lean and weak, and when ridden to the ground they are taken at the eleventh hour to the poor-houses only to die there. Every kind of medical help, and the hospital rations, prove ineffective in their case, and many of them succumb to death, some even within a couple of hours after their admittance to the poor-house. Every attempt to persuade these ignorant and headstrong beggars to go to poor-houses has become futile. On account of the high rate of mortality among the inmates of the poor-house it has become a firm belief among them that they are taken there simply for being killed. As an instance of this it may be pointed out that during the last week no less than 65 wanderers died in the city. There is a Government poor-house, and one more is opened by the charitable persons in the city. Such being the case, can anybody say that there is no provision for weak and emaciated persons? But these people do not avail themselves of the provision made for them, and are paying the full penalty of their sheer foolishness. On finding that the mortality had gone high in the city I directed the police not to allow the people to wander, but send the emaciated of these to the poor-house and the able-bodied to the work.

5. Some of the lower classes, more especially the *bhils*, are habitually lazy and not used to regular work. They are therefore disinclined to join relief works, and struggle on to earn a miserable subsistence by headloads of grass or firewood and some other kind of labour, and stick to their homes until they are too far exhausted and unable to further help themselves in any way. The increased mortality among cattle helped these people for a time to provide themselves with some subsistence, and in many cases they subsisted on unwholesome meat which only served to bring on diarrhœa and dysentery which, in the absence of any treatment in villages, in many cases proved fatal. Another circumstance was the people taking too freely to the exclusive use of Burma rice, which sold cheaper than *jowar*, which was the usual staple food of the people. The rice had not the same staying power as *jowar*, and the people not being used to it suffered by the exclusive use of this new food.

6. During January and February many of the poor people, especially on the works, suffered from exposure during the rather severe cold which prevailed in those months.

7. As regards village inspection and village relief I have been doing all I can to make it as efficient as possible. I have already submitted to you copies of circular orders issued by me to village officers and Circle Inspectors in connection with village relief. The copies are appended hereto for ready reference. The former are strictly enjoined to give timely relief from village dole in every case where it may be necessary, and not to allow any death by starvation to occur. For this purpose small grants have been placed at the

Vernacular, not forwarded.

disposal of the officers in charge of police stations, and the Circle Inspectors have been ordered to spare no pains to inspect the villages in their charge and supervise the work of the village officers and submit regular diaries which are checked by Mamlatdars, Sub-Divisional officer and by myself. The Mamlatdars have been relieved of all their criminal work and the greater part of their revenue work by giving them extra head *karkuns*, and by investing the Sub-Judges with criminal powers, and they have been specially ordered to move rapidly from village to village, and to particularly supervise the work of the village officers and the Circle Inspectors in the matter of the administration of the famine relief. The Divisional officers have also been requested to supervise this work, and the poor-houses and the relief works in their charge, and for better management, three out of the five poor-houses in the district have been placed in charge of the local Sub-Judges and the one at Broach in that of the Civil Surgeon. The Municipalities have also been exhorted to take their proper share in the famine administration by looking after the town beggars and starving people within their limits, and to keep up an ambulance system and to take such persons to the local poor-houses for timely relief. The same system is also introduced on relief works and villages. The special civil officers have also been instructed to issue credit *chits* to such of the workers as cannot obtain supplies on credit. Orders have also been issued under section 52 (*d*) of the Famine Code.

8. As regards relief works I may be permitted to observe that they are often visited by Sub-Divisional officers and the District Medical Officer. As far as I have seen new-comers have been taken on all the works and then drafted, but no one is ever refused relief. I myself have visited all the works and found the arrangements satisfactory.

9. I have thus done all that was necessary and possible for affording timely relief to the sufferers. I myself and my assistants, the District Medical Officer, and the Executive Engineer have been moving throughout the district and visiting the several works and watching the general condition of the people with particular care. The mortality has no doubt gone high for the reasons stated above. I shall, however, spare no pains to prevent death from starvation.

No. 385-*F.*, *dated Ahmedabad, the* 28*th May*, 1900.

Forwarded to Government.

Mr. Panse has a special right to be heard when comparing the habits and stamina of the people in the Deccan and in Gujarat.

There have been in the Broach District ever since the famine began to make itself felt a Circle Inspector to on an average every 14 villages, and a special mamlatdar (under the name of Aval karkun) in every taluka. The supervision has been in the exceptionally vigorous hands of Messrs. Painter and Maneklal Narbheram and of Mr. Panse himself who has been very active in moving about among the villages. The relief works have been so numerous as to lead Government to apprehend that an excessive number were receiving relief. It is too early to express any final opinion, but the Commissioner believes that no human agency at command could have reduced the mortality in this district.

F. S. P. LELY,
Commissioner, Northern Division.

Enclosure 4 in No. 78.

Letter from H. Rendall, Esq., Assistant Collector, Panch Mahals, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 3638, *dated Godhra, the* 9*th June*, 1900.

In reply to your No. 4608 of the 27th April below Government memorandum No. M.-269 of the 23rd idem, I have the honour to report as follows. The report applies also to Government memorandum No. M.-617 of the 20th May, forwarded under your No. 5631 of the 23rd idem.

2. I would first point out that the distribution between relief works, poor-houses and villages given in the statement received from Government is altogether misleading. Column 4 of the statement for December, January, and February is headed "Number of deaths in Relief Works Hospitals," while that for March is headed "Number of deaths in Relief Works Hospitals and Camps." Memorandum No. M. 269 speaks of the proportion which the mortality on relief works bears to the total mortality, and I presume, therefore, column 4 of the statement should include all deaths at the relief camps whether in hospital or not, for it unfortunately happens that many people die outside the hospital; that the

figures in the statement do not show the correct proportion is obvious for the total number of deaths on works shewn in the statement is 114 in January and 169 in February, for the whole district, whereas at the village of Doki in Dohad taluka which I visited this morning, there were 195 deaths in January and 239 in February, and almost every one occurred in the camp (including kitchen and hospital) of the Dohad-Limdi road work, which was at Doki during those two months. The population of Doki is 216 and the number of deaths in December was two and in March four. The same is the case with Ambali in Godhra taluka where the death rate has attracted attention, and in fact at every place where relief camps have been situated. Separate registers ought to have been kept, but were not. When this was brought to notice special orders were issued for registers to be kept, but the practice of registering deaths in the village registers has continued, and after consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner, I think it would probably merely cause worse confusion to alter the practice now. I do not think there has been double registration, but for the total number of deaths the figures reported by the mamlatdars to the Sanitary Commissioner should be taken, those entered in the weekly famine returns being left out of consideration.

3. As to the causes of excessive mortality they are firstly, laziness and disinclination to work or to the restraint of a kitchen or poor-house, and secondly the fact that though a large proportion of the people is accustomed to live a very hand-to-mouth existence, they have refused to recognize the fact that their usual summer supply of jungle products, mowra and toddy, would not be forthcoming and waited on until their strength was exhausted and their digestion ruined by eating rubbish. Even when the hope of mowra and toddy had to be abandoned many people, especially amongst the *kolis*, have refused to go to work saying deliberately that they would die in their villages. Immigration has undoubtedly swelled the mortality returns to a considerable extent. The Mamlatdar of Dohad puts down 25 per cent. of the deaths in his taluka to immigrants from the Central India States, and there is no doubt the number has been large though an accurate enumeration is impossible as the names of many who died were not known, and false names and villages are usually given.

4. With regard to your 3rd paragraph I have examined the detailed returns for each taluka and mahal. The mortality is of course highest at the large central towns of Godhra, Dohad and Jhalod, but leaving these out, and omitting also villages in which deaths on relief camps are recorded, the mortality appears to be pretty evenly distributed.

5. There are at present 22 Circle Inspectors working in 692 villages, of which 13 are permanently uninhabited. I have sanction for 7 more, but cannot get men suitable for the work. There are over these Circle Inspectors, five Special Aval Karkuns and three Forest Officers, while Mr. Ryan supervises Kalol and Halol in addition. Each Circle Inspector submits a weekly diary to the divisional officer, and each supervising officer submits a weekly diary to me which I forward to you. There are ambulance parties in the five chief towns, and at the relief works, and every effort is made to bring in wanderers.

6. There is no rule as to the number of times the divisional officers should visit relief works. I see from the diaries of the special civil officers when the works are visited and I get frequent demi-official reports. At present there are only two works (excluding Champaner which is very small) which have not European officers resident or practically resident on them, viz., Wadatalao and Dohad Ali-Rajpur road. Wadatalao was started at the end of March and has been visited by the District Medical Officer, the Executive Engineer, Mr. Ryan and myself, and the Dohad Ali-Rajpur road work shares with the Muwalia tank the attentions of Captain Southey.

7. There is one point which has possibly not been brought to the notice of Government, and that is the number of *inam* villages (talukdari, mewasi, &c.) in the district. In Halol more than half the mahal is *inami* while in Kalol there are 31 *inam* villages out of 65. The proportion in the other talukas is smaller, but still considerable. Now, with the exception of one or two bright examples, such as the Naik of Tanda, in Dohad, and the *Inamdar* of Goraj, in

Halol, the owners of these villages do practically nothing whatever for their people. Our Circle Inspectors visit the village and give the dole to deserving persons at Government expense, but the *inamdars* are required to do nothing but pay their assessment to Government, and they neither look after the people themselves nor keep efficient village officers to do it for them. It is only to be expected that their people will starve and wander. As for the Government villages, I can only say that with people such as we have to deal with either the high mortality must be accepted or the famine code principles altered. Government find it hard to understand how, with thorough supervision, people can die of actual insufficiency of food. I would remind you of an attempt, at the beginning of the famine, to define a "death from starvation." In a district like this, where the life of a *bhil* or a *koli* is of no value, and where the higher castes are, as a rule, absolutely indifferent to the suffering of the town, deaths from actual want of food can occur, and I fear that some do occur; but until death from starvation is defined it is impossible to account satisfactorily for the mortality ascribed to that cause. If a man is set on by robbers and severely injured, and fever supervenes and he dies, fever would not, I imagine, be given as the cause of his death; and, similarly, if a man refuses work on relief under a system which admits of proper control, and wanders about eating rubbish till his stomach is ruined and a decent meal causes diarrhœa from which he dies, I see no remedy but to ascribe his death to starvation. It is starvation which he could have avoided, and for which no one is to blame but himself, but it is, nevertheless, starvation. The famine code requires that a man who is able to work and needs relief should work for it, and it is a perfectly fair principle. If it is to be observed there must, amongst people like these, be a high mortality. They will not work while they can, but go on until, in the majority of cases, they die because they cannot digest the food given them.

No. 79.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture. No. 1,372–P., dated Poona, the 22nd July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1,367–P., dated 21st instant, I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of India copies of the papers specified in the margin, regarding the causes of high mortality in the districts of Northern Gujarat *in the month of* January, 1900.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 3,878, dated 7th April, 1900.
Letter from the Collector of the Panch Mahals, No. 2,275, dated 19th April, 1900.

Enclosure 1 in No. 79.

Memo. from the Commissioner, Northern Division, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 3,878, *dated Camp, Broach, the 7th April*, 1900.

In accordance with Government memorandum No. 1,505, of 15th March, the Commissioner, Northern Division, has the honour to report on the very high death rates in Gujarat, especially in Broach, Kaira and Panch Mahals in the month of January. The opinion of the Collector of Panch Mahals has not yet been received.

2. The district officers of Kaira and Broach do not think the excessive cold has much to do with it. That this opinion is right seems sufficiently proved by the fact that the mortality has tended to increase since the weather became milder. The Commissioner has no compiled statistics at hand, but from daily observation he has no doubt that this is so.

3. Mr. Quin, Collector of Kaira, writes :—

> "It is true that for a few days the cold was excessive and this no doubt increased the mortality largely for the time, but on the whole I think the majority of deaths above the normal were due to the general famine conditions prevailing in the district. Large numbers of persons having no means of subsistence and refusing to go to relief works were wandering about the district in January trying to maintain themselves by begging. These persons were to be found generally in the neighbourhood of large towns, and the death-rate amongst them was naturally very high."

4. Mr. Painter, Assistant Collector of Broach, writes on 23rd January, that a large number of the deaths are traceable to the relief works, that he knows it to be a fact that "many deaths in the villages are those of persons who had been to relief works and falling ill there returned to their homes to die. The symptoms are generally looseness of the bowels and fever." He conjectures that it may be due to bad water, or to the fraudulent mixture of lang with the *jowar* flour, but he admits that he has no definite grounds for the suggestions.

5. On the 24th March the same officer writes :—"The view that cold was not to any large extent responsible for the steady increase of deaths, has, I think, been borne out by the fact that the advent of the hot weather has not reduced the figures as it should were the deaths chiefly due to a transitory phenomenon."

6. The subject is obscure, but the Commissioner's impression is that the main cause is to be sought for in the peculiar condition of the province. The very words used by Mr. Mollison to describe the Gujarat bullock may be applied to the Gujarat human. He is soft and not inured to get on with insufficient food or unwholesome food. He succumbs much more quickly to privation than the Deccani who is more accustomed to hardship. In this view the high death-rate in Broach is not so remarkable as would appear at first sight. The Commissioner believes that the destitution in that district is much underestimated by those who have not studied it. A larger proportion of the population than elsewhere are in ordinary years employed on day labour at about 5 annas per day for men, and proportionately high wages for women and children. These high wages they freely spend on liquor and nourishing food without a thought for the morrow. They have not much stamina and the shock of reduced food and other privation breaks them down. The Commissioner fears that the mortality will continue to increase though it may or may not be shown in the returns, as doubtless many who died in the first months were wandering foreigners.

7. In the Panch Mahals again things are altogether different. There the Bhil, unless he is under special influence, wanders about or stays at home rather than work, and dies.

8. Steps are being taken to distinguish the local residents from immigrants.

9. More vigilance than ever is necessary over the latrines, the water supply, and the food shops of the relief works.

Enclosure 2 in No. 79.

Letter from R. B. Stewart, Esq., Collector, Panch Mahals, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, Ahmedabad, No. 2,275, dated Camp, Godhra, the 19th April, 1900.

In reply to your No. 2,982, forwarding a copy of Government memorandum 1,505, of 15th March I have the honour to report as follows :—

The high death-rate in this district in January last was undoubtedly due in a great measure to the extreme cold, and the Civil Surgeon, Godhra, attributes a considerable proportion of deaths to influenza, small-pox, and measles also. The fatal result of these diseases is, however, due to privation. As stated in the return accompanying the Government memorandum, 15 cases of deaths ascribed to starvation were medically examined in Godhra town. Elsewhere none of the cases were medically examined, the cause being stated by the village

officers to the best of their knowledge. In Dohad taluka there were 196 deaths on the relief works, 89 being children, and out of these 35 adults and 21 children are said to have died of cold. Of the 43 deaths in Godhra town ascribed to starvation none were those of local residents, but it is impossible to say whether the wanderers belonged to the district or outside. Of the eight deaths from starvation in Dohad and Jhalod one was that of a local man who had been on the relief work and left it, while the other persons were outsiders.

No. 80.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine). No. 3,419, *dated Bombay Castle, the* 1*st October*, 1900.

No. P.—1367, dated 21st July, 1900.
No. P.—1372, dated 22nd July, 1900.

In continuation of the letters from this Government specified in the margin, I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of India copies of a letter from the Surgeon General with the Government of Bombay, No. 8,452, dated 24th August, 1900, and its accompaniments, containing a report on the high mortality in the Gujarat Districts during the months of January, February, and March, 1900, and to make the following remarks.

2. There is little doubt that all the causes enumerated by the Surgeon General and the Sanitary Commissioner have had some effect. When the census is taken—but not till then—it may be possible to estimate how far the death-rates have been raised by the deaths of immigrants; it is not now and apparently never will be possible to determine the extent of the effect of other causes. Although there has not been discovered the existence of any unusual disease, the fact that the mortality amongst residents in towns—exclusive of those who were merely temporary sojourners—has been exceedingly high indicates that the year has been a very unhealthy one.

3. The figures given in paragraph 7 of the Surgeon General's report require correction, the real percentages being as follows:—

Collectorate.	Percentage of Population on Relief.	Percentage of Gratuitously Relieved to Total Relieved.	Death-rate per Mille per Annum, January to March.
Ahmedabad	13	34	96
Kaira	6	23	114
Panch Mahâls	6	18	163
Broach	31	19	134
Khándesh	17	27	88
Sholápur	20	33	42

These figures cover too short a period to form a safe basis for deduction, but even so far as they go they hardly support the view that the death-rate depended largely on the extent of relief given. The mortality was very much

higher in Broach than in Ahmedabad, although the proportion of people in receipt of relief in the former district was more than double that in the latter. The following table has been prepared contrasting the extent of relief with the mortality in each of the districts until August (the figures for the last month for the Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts, however, being taken from the Collectors' weekly telegrams and being, therefore, probably incomplete) :—

District.	Percentage of Population on Relief of All Kinds.							
	January, 1900.	February, 1900.	March, 1900.	April, 1900.	May, 1900.	June, 1900.	July, 1900.	August, 1900.
Ahmedabad	*7·32*	*7·50*	*9·33*	*10·53*	*24·01*	*14·68*	*15·82*	15·18
	9	13	15	17	13	14	20	21
Kaira	*8·58*	*7·97*	*12·07*	*12·66*	*22·17*	*11·41*	*14·67*	13·37
	2	5	10	13	10	14	26	24
Panch Maháls ...	*9·58*	*12·58*	*18·69*	*27·44*	*46·60*	*24·56*	*21·79*	*26·11*
	6	6	7	16	12	23	36	40
Broach	*9·34*	*10·23*	*14·05*	*12·03*	*31·62*	*12·03*	*14·09*	*13·69*
	28	35	31	25	23	22	36	33
Khándesh ...	*4·10*	*5·95*	*10·71*	*12·67*	*5·81*	*6·02*	*11·31*	*12·91*
	16	17	18	15	15	14	14	12
Sholápur	*3·57*	*3·48*	*3·64*	*4·61*	*7·07*	*6·13*	*9·10*	*5·89*
	18	20	23	23	22	23	21	18
Ahmednagar	*3·48*	*4·12*	*5·76*	*8·26*	*8·23*	*6·77*	*9·04*	*7·84*
	11	20	27	28	27	30	28	25

NOTE.—The figures in italics represent the death-rates per mille for the several months and those in block type for August represent death-rates calculated from the number of deaths reported by the Collectors in their weekly famine telegrams.

It can scarcely be said that a very great extension of relief has had a very material effect so far in diminishing mortality.

4. There are two statements in the Sanitary Commissioner's report which require modification. He states in the section regarding Ahmedabad City that it appears that "at first the village relief was given freely, but it was used so largely that it was found necessary to restrict it, and perhaps the restrictions were applied too stringently by the village authorities." It was found in November that village relief was given in Kaira on a much larger scale than in other districts, including the adjoining districts of Ahmedabad and Broach, and the Collector was instructed to restrict it to actual requirements with the result that there was a contraction in that district. But in the Ahmedabad district there was a continuous expansion. Lieutenant-Colonel Clarkson states in the section regarding the Ahmedabad district that the people "eked out their food with leaves of trees and roots and stayed on till their cattle perished and then when they came on the works they could not perform the task imposed, and so of course the minimum wage only was given, which being dissatisfied with (*sic*) the workers would leave and wander back to their villages." From the time, however, at which the Code system was introduced people received full wages for an appreciable interval after joining the works in the Ahmedabad district, and very few have been paid the minimum wage at any time in that district.

5. It is very difficult to draw the line between deaths of which privation is a contributing cause and deaths due to starvation, and although the question was discussed at an early stage of the famine,* no instructions regarding it have been issued. The Surgeon General and the Sanitary Commissioner apparently give to the term "starvation" a much wider meaning than has been usual. It is impossible to prevent deaths from want of food amongst people who wander from their homes and who do not seek for Government assistance until emaciation has set in, and the meals which village officers are required to give to such as are unable to go to a poor-house probably in many cases accelerate the end. But this Government has throughout insisted on the view that people who remain at their homes in British villages cannot die from want of food without negligence on the part of village officers and of some at least of the inspecting officers, starvation not being a rapid process. Wherever there has been any allegation of such deaths among residents special inquiry has been ordered, but in no case in Gujarat has the allegation been substantiated.

* *Vide* correspondence ending with the letter to the Government of India, No. 989-FAM., dated 29th December, 1899.

6. I am also directed to forward the accompanying copies of the reports* of the Sanitary Commission for the Government of Bombay, No. B.F.—6277-P., dated 24th August, and No. B.F.—6996-P., dated 17th September, 1900, on the result of the chemical analysis of samples of water and foodstuffs obtained from certain relief camps and poor-houses in the four Northern Districts of Gujarat and in Sholapur, and to state that the attention of the Collectors concerned has been drawn to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarkson's remarks contained in them.

* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 80.

Letter from the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to Government, Famine Department, Bombay, No. 8,452, dated the 24th August, 1900.

In forwarding herewith letter No. B. F. 5,935, dated 9th instant, from the Sanitary Commissioner for Government, I have the honour to state that, so far as I am in a position to judge from the information submitted, I agree with the Sanitary Commissioner in his opinion as to the causes of the very high mortality which has occurred in Gujarat during the past few months, as compared with that in the famine-stricken portion of the Deccan.

2. The report does not contain evidence that any infectious disease, or special form of fever was prevalent, and the increased mortality appears to have been mainly recorded under the heads of Fever, Diarrhœa and Dysentery; but the Sanitary Commissioner draws no comparison between the mortality from these diseases and the mean annual death-rates from the same causes.

3. The report does not say whether or not, scurvy was observed to be prevalent, and yet it probably existed in a considerable degree as a result of the general deprivation of wholesome food and contributed to swell the mortality. Fever would no doubt occur in many cases of privation, and especially in those attended with intestinal disorders; but it would have assisted in forming an opinion, if the results of the observation of typical cases of privation admitted into hospitals and poor-houses had been reported in some detail, as evidence of the effects of scarcity in producing a febrile condition and of the general physical condition of the sufferers from a clynical aspect.

4. I think it may be said that the cases of privation among pilgrims and other ill-fed and over-wrought travellers, who are so often admitted in a dying condition into Indian Civil Hospitals, even in prosperous times, are almost invariably attended by fever; and I regard a febrile state as a very frequent symptom of the later stages of starvation. I consider therefore that, having regard to one of the most prominent symptoms which would be observed or

complained of before decease, it is not surprising that a large number of deaths were registered as due to fever. But I am equally of opinion that these, together with a large proportion of the excess mortality attributed to other causes, cannot be ascribed to any other cause than starvation.

5. The death-rate in the Surat Collectorate during the first quarter of 1900 only rose to 55 per mille per annum, as compared with 134, 163, 114 and 96 in the districts of Broach, Panch Mahals, Kaira and Ahmedabad, respectively; and I think it is not unreasonable to infer, that had the excess mortality been due to any epidemic fever, this would probably have affected also the Surat Collectorate, the death-rate of which would then have approximated more nearly to that of the other districts. I do not, however, wish to lay much stress upon this suggestion.

6. I therefore concur in the views expressed by the Sanitary Commissioner in paragraphs 7 and 8 of his report; but I am disposed to attach somewhat more importance to the bad quality and deficient quantity of the water-supply than Lieut.-Colonel Clarkson appears to do. For the sake of clearness I may thus summarise the causes which, in my opinion, have contributed directly or indirectly, and in varying degrees, to cause the deaths from starvation—

(1) insufficient and unwholesome food,—the latter including leaves and roots of trees and other plants and wild fruits;

(2) the unwonted nature of some of the grain (*e.g.*, Rangoon rice) which was otherwise wholesome;

(3) imperfect cooking of food, especially of rice and vegetables;

(4) bad quality of the drinking water;

(5) the originally prosperous and well-fed condition of the people, and their consequent inferior adaptability to resist the ill-effects of a sudden change to a poor and scanty diet as compared with the poorer and hardier people of the Deccan;

(6) the unwillingness of certain of the people to apply for, or accept, relief sufficiently early;

(7) the aimless wandering of some of the distressed population in search of work or of alms, and the attendant fatigue and exposure to sun and cold when in weakened health;

(8) the immigration of large numbers of destitute persons from adjoining Native States.

With regard to the remarks contained in the Sanitary Commissioner's paragraph 8, I subjoin the following summary of those figures in Tables XV. and XVI. attached to the report which bear upon the connection between the death-rate and the percentage of the population relieved in each collectorate:—

Three Months—January to March, 1900.

Collectorate.	Percentage of Population on Relief.	Percentage of Gratuitously Relieved to Total Relieved.	Death-rate per Mille per Annum, January to March.
Ahmedabad	13	32	96
Kaira	6	24	114
Panch Mahals	6	18	163
Broach	34	16	134
Khandesh	17	27	88
Sholapur	19	33	42

It will be seen that in the cases of Kaira and the Panch Mahals the death-rate was proportionate to the comparative smallness of the percentage of the population on relief; and that in the Panch Mahals and Broach it was also in direct ratio to the lower percentages of persons gratuitously relieved than in other districts. Whether these facts stand in the relation of cause and effect, I am unable to say; and possibly there were influences which prevented the full extension of relief in Kaira and the Panch Mahals. But I would observe that in the Broach Collectorate, which had the largest percentage of relieved to population, the better opportunities for gratuitous relief were taken advantage of to a less extent than in any of the other collectorates, and the death-rate per mille per annum was only second to that of the Panch Mahals.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for the Government of Bombay, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Famine Department, No. B. F. 5,935-P., dated the 9th August, 1900.

No. M.—158, dated 13th April 1900.
„ M.—213, „ 18th do.
„ M.—270, „ 23rd do.
„ M.—313, „ 26th do.
„ M.—419, „ 5th May 1900.

With reference to your memoranda marginally noted, I have the honour to submit the accompanying reports on the high mortality of the Gujarat Districts, and to state that I have endeavoured to reply to all the questions asked.

2. First of all as to the general condition of the people in Gujarat. It will be seen from the separate reports that in normal times the mass of the people are in good condition and feed well, with the exception of the Bhils, who in the hot weather are pressed for food; but even then with a good mhowra crop they suffer little. If those on relief works do not own land, and as far as my enquiries have gone, about one in ten stated they owned land for which they paid Rs. 20 more or less to Government, the usual practice is for the employer to feed them with two good meals a day of a pound of the usual grain at each meal, besides other things. In addition, some stated, they got one or two annas, and others, that they only got clothes. Sometimes a light morning meal was taken. Those who cultivated their own land stated that their usual grain meal was at least two pounds a day. Nearly all questioned stated they took either toddy or liquor. Of toddy a good draught would be taken, but liquor not in large quantity. The Bhils, however, I am informed, take liquor whenever they can get it. In a way then, no doubt, ordinary Gujaratis living in a moist and usually warm climate, earning fairly easily what is sufficient to live upon well, have soft constitutions and feel the change to lesser diet; but it seems to me that if at first they had gone on to works, what with the wage they could earn and the resources they had besides, and the reserve of latent power in well fed bodies, they would soon, after the first discomforts, have become inured to the harder work and lesser food. In all the districts it is reported that the people came on to work in an impoverished condition due to waiting on their cattle and living on what grain they could secure, mixing it with leaves and other deleterious substances. Then not finding the work to their liking they wandered away, trying to subsist by begging and getting more and more reduced, so that when they did get relieved by food at villages it did them no good.

3. It has also been stated that the eating of Rangoon rice, which was imported in large quantities and sold cheaper than other grain, had something to do with the illness terminating in so many deaths. Rangoon rice is of a smaller grain than the rice usually eaten in this part of the country, and in many parts is not the usual food of the people. A certain amount of lime is added to it to keep it of a white colour and preserve it from insects. Samples of it have been sent to the Chemical Analyser to Government, and he has pronounced the rice to be good from a chemical point of view and the amount of lime contained in it to be harmless. Now, although a change of diet from jowari or bajri to rice may give rise to intestinal disorder, especially amongst those in poor condition, I am of opinion that most of the workers would soon have got accustomed to it if they had prepared it properly. In numerous kitchens children and dependants have been fed on this rice, which has been properly prepared, and it has not appeared to have any deleterious effect. In the kitchens I have seen the children, some time in residence, were, as a rule, in good condition, and the dependants, mostly old people, were stated to have maintained their condition. Moreover those who assisted in the actual kitchen operations, and partook of the same food as the inmates of the kitchen or poor-house were, as a rule, in remarkably good condition. The reason why the rice did harm, and the amount it did cannot be justly estimated, is that the people on the works did not properly cook it, often ate it half boiled, and children especially would pick the grains out of the dirt and eat them without cleansing. What is said of rice would be true of any of the grains usually eaten if improperly cooked and mixed with deleterious substance.

4. With regard to the purity of the water supply. Of the 23 samples forwarded to the Chemical Analyser for the Government of Bombay and reported on, only five have been pronounced fit for potable purposes. In the best of times, however, most of the

drinking water would be found unfit for potable purposes from a chemical point of view, especially when taken from rivers and surface wells. Brackish water exists in all the severely famine-affected districts in Gujarat, but I cannot find any positive evidence to connect it with the high mortality, for this is not confined to the talukas in which brackish water exists.

5. Then as to the "caste" of those died (*see* Tables Nos. XIII. and XIV.*), by far the great majority are "Hindus of low caste." Classes such as Christians and Parsis must be left out of account, as their numbers are so small that a few deaths more affect the percentage very greatly. There must have been some error in registering the caste, as it is impossible to suppose, especially in Broach and the Panch Mahals, that none of the people coming under the head "All others" escaped death from some cause or another.

6. In considering the cause of the high mortality, it must be borne in mind that the registration, though it may be, and probably is, accurate as regards the numbers dead, is not likely to be accurate as regards the cause of death. As will be seen in looking over the returns from the different Collectorates, in some the bulk of the deaths (Ahmedabad, Panch Mahals, Broach) is put down to "Fever," in another (Surat) the deaths are divided between "Fever" and "Other causes," whilst in another (Kaira) the majority of deaths is put down to "Other causes." If, however, the mortality as registered in Rural Circles is separated from that registered in Town Circles, it is seen that a very high percentage of the deaths continues to be attributed to "Fever" in the Rural Circles of all the Collectorates except Kaira, whilst in the Town Circles of each Collectorate, except the Panch Mahals, the largest percentage of deaths is put down under the heading "Other causes."

7. Enquiry has been directed to find out if any particular form of fever has been prevalent, but so far the enquiry has failed to elicit that any specific fever has been present. A sharp look-out was kept for relapsing fever, but none of the medical officers in the districts, or microscopical observations in a head-quarters town, have found any indications that this fever existed, nor has skilled expert investigation lately made found the diagnostic spirillum which should be if there was much relapsing fever about. So, as the death-rate in all the districts of Gujarat has steadily increased, and as there has been but one cause steadily at work all the time, viz., famine, the high death-rate must be ascribed to privation of the usual food and comforts of the people.

Why it should have told upon the people so much when work and wage was to be obtained must be attributed to :—

1. The restriction in their food and their supplementing it with deleterious and indigestible substances.

2. People clinging to their homes on this insufficient food to look after their cattle and then coming on to works in an impoverished condition.

3. The large influx of people from the Native States round each Collectorate.

8. It is to be noted also that the percentage of population on relief was in the Gujarat Districts, except Broach, for December, 1899, and the months following, very small and low compared with the Deccan Districts : *see* Table No. XV. The large numbers in Broach were due to the large influx of strangers, more coming into this Collectorate, I understand, than into the others. In this connection also a table, No. XVI., compiled by Major Dyson, I.M.S., the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Gujarat Registration District, is appended, which shows the percentage of gratuitously relieved to the total on relief from October last. In the two Deccan Districts put in for comparison the number gratuitously relieved has been consistently high, but the death-rate in them did not reach to a very high figure except in February and March in Khandesh. Now the gratuitous relief is mostly given to children and old people, and it will be seen from the tables of deaths by ages that the greatest mortality occurred at the extremes of life. As the majority of people in Gujarat live from hand to mouth, their resources are at an end by the time the new kharif crops are ready, and in ordinary years the buniah comes to their relief ; but, as Major Dyson writes, "Last year there was no kharif harvest, and the pinch of famine must have become severe towards the end of the year, and it is more than probable that large numbers of people, especially the young and the old, became so enfeebled during the last three months of the year that they fell easy victims during the cold of January and February, and even when they came on relief many were too far gone to receive any benefit."

9. As to deaths from "Starvation" which have been shown in some Collectorates and not in others, it appears to be a question of the heading under which the Registrars have chosen to enter them. In one town a few post-mortems having been made and the deaths certified as due to starvation, all those found dead have been entered as "Dead from starvation," whilst in another town people picked up dead are entered as dead from "Diarrhœa" or "Fever," according as their clothing was soiled or not. Of course, when numbers are picked up dead, unless cholera or some other specific disease is known to exist, the only guide to the cause is the condition of the body. It is absurd to ascribe the death to fever. If the clothing is soiled, it is justifiable to enter the death as due to diarrhœa, but if there is emaciation, the probabilities are, certainly in famine time, that the death is due to want of proper food, and starvation is the proper term, for many of those people really

* Not printed.

did starve themselves to death. In Ahmedabad Town, where the deaths ascribed to starvation have been many, beggars were taken to the poor-house, I was informed, over and over again ; but as long as they had strength to break out they would do so, and take their chance in the city, until they were reduced to such a state that they either had to remain in the poor-house or perish near the city. In order to avoid being taken to the poor-house they would remain in the outskirts, and the search parties would find them dead or moribund. What has happened at Ahmedabad City has happened at other places, and though the deaths have not been entered under the same heading, the cause of death in the majority of those picked up dead is the same as at Ahmedabad.

Annexure II.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Ahmedabad Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

The Ahmedabad Collectorate is made up of 7 Rural Circles and 4 Town Circles besides one Military Cantonment.

Of the total population 78·93 live in Rural Circles and 21·07 in the Town Circles and Cantonment.

The Collectorate is surrounded by Native States except on the south, where it borders on the Kaira Collectorate.

The Kolis and Thakurs and Bhils in the Parantij Taluka are those who have suffered most in the present famine. In ordinary times they eat bajri and dall with chas, and in hot weather, in certain parts, they eat mhowra, as well as collect it for sale. A little liquor is taken daily, but not to any excess. They earn enough usually to keep themselves well without very hard labour, but not being thrifty do not save anything.

A table, No. I., of deaths by causes, for the first three months, is appended, and of the total mortality in each month : 70·04 per cent. in January, 67·86 per cent. in February, and 66·7 per cent. in March occurred in Rural Circles, whilst in the same months 29·96, 32·14, and 33·3 took place in Town Circles. Thus there is a slight decline in each month from January in the percentage mortality in Rural Circles, with a corresponding slight rise in the mortality in Town Circles.

Whilst as regards the ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population for the whole zillah, the ratio is 7·32 in January, 7·50 in February, and 9·33 in March, but when the calculation of deaths per 1,000 of population for Rural and Town Circles separately is made, it is seen that the ratio is much higher in Town than in Rural Circles. Practically, whilst the mortality in Rural Circles went up under 2 per 1,000 of population from January to March, in Town Circles it went up over 4 per 1,000 in the same time, due to the large number of people attracted to large towns either in the hope of work or of charity.

A table, No. II., is given, showing deaths by ages and sexes. The chief mortality is among infants and children under 5 years of age, and then the other extreme of life shows the next highest mortality. The lowest death-rate is shown amongst those from 15 to 20 years of age, followed by those of ages ranging from 10 to 15 years. The deaths amongst males are in excess of those amongst females.

In all the Rural Circles during the three months, the principal mortality is ascribed to "Fever," and very few to "Dysentery" or "Diarrhœa," which are the causes one would expect in famine times to be most prevalent. In Town Circles, on the other hand, more than half the total mortality occurring in them is put down to "Other causes." An analysis of the deaths in the largest Town Circle and Viramgam Town Circle has been made, and the result shown separately. It shows also what a large number of strangers or "outsiders" have come in to swell the total of deaths, and there is little doubt that in Rural Circles also the death roll has been increased by the number of wanderers from Native States, by which this Collectorate is almost surrounded. The mortality has been increased, not only by these wanderers from outside, but by the mass of people not coming on to work till they were in very low condition. They eked out their food with leaves of trees and roots, and stayed on till their cattle perished, and then when they came on the works they could not perform the task imposed, and so of course the minimum wage only was given, which, being dissatisfied with, the workers would leave, and wander back to their villages. This, in my opinion, has been the chief cause of the high death-rate. The village agency has entered the mass of deaths under the head of "Fever," but no specific fever has been discovered to have existed, and in the majority of cases the cause of death has been due to insufficient food. Contributory causes, though in a minor degree, were, in January, the cold, which led many workers to leave camps, and may have prevented others from coming on, but as the mortality has been steadily increasing, the effect of the cold weather can only have been temporary. There also, I was informed that in some cases the task was not equally apportioned by the subordinate officers in charge of works, and this had the effect of sending people off the works, but even presuming it did happen at one or two works. it could not have had a bad effect on the great mass of the people, and the cause of the excess mortality is to be found in the habits of the people, disinclined to go far from their villages and to work for a living wage.

Annexure III.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the High Death-rate and Deaths from Starvation in Ahmedabad City.

Ahmedabad is a city, the population of which, by the census of 1891, is 114,451, but since then, up to 1899, the population must have largely increased, because in 1891 there were only 9 mills, whilst in 1899 there were 22 mills and 3 factories, which must have attracted a large number of people, and the Health Officer is of opinion that the city is overcrowded, and, in addition, a large number of people have come in again, and remained with friends and relations. Lately, owing to the bad state of the mill industry, numbers of hands have been unemployed.

The ten-year mortality mean and the number of deaths in the first quarter is shown in the table appended, No. I., and also the ages at time of death in this Town Circle is shown in another table also appended, No. II.

The table below shows the total deaths and deaths by causes and sex in the city for January, February, and March, 1900.

Months.	Total Deaths.	Deaths by Causes.						Sex.	
		Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Dysentery and Diarrhœa.	Injuries.	Other Causes.	Male.	Female.
January	1,454	—	2	468	47	14	923	793	661
February	1,582	—	1	356	41	7	1,177	857	725
March	2,140	—	10	554	78	12	1,486	1,118	1,022

There is a slight preponderance of males dying to females. The infantile mortality is nigh.

The deaths ascribed to "Other causes" are in each month much more than half of the total number of deaths.

The chief diseases which help to make this total of "Other causes" are given below.

Months.	Deaths ascribed to Other Causes.	Chief Illness ending in Death entered under heading "Other Causes."			Remarks.
		Bronchial Affections.	Want of Lactation.	Starvation.	
January	923	478	102	246	826 deaths out of 923
February	1,177	392	66	539	997 „ „ 1,177
March	1,486	477	96	590	1,163 „ „ 1,486

The "Want of lactation" and starvation are causes directly due to famine.

In famine times it is notorious that people leave their homes and go to big cities in hopes of employment, and among these outsiders not known to reside in the city, 442 deaths occurred in January, 684 in February, and 902 in March, or a percentage on the total deaths of 30·4, 43·2, and 42·2 in each month respectively.

In cases of death in the streets, or on the outskirts in which there are no relatives to claim the body, and in which no information can be obtained, a panchnama is held by the Mukhi and Police, and according to the appearance of the body the cause of death is registered. All these cases put down as dead from "Starvation" are those of outsiders wandering to the city and dying unknown. Thus in January 442, in February 684, and in March 902 "outsiders" died, and of these, in each respective month, 246 or 55·7 per cent., 539 or 78·8, 590 or 65·4 per cent. were put down as died from starvation. being picked up dead.

An estimate of their ages was made, and the heaviest mortality was among adults who were stated to be mostly "Kolis" and "Thakurs."

The verdict of the panchnama has to be accepted, and then the question arises how were these people allowed to get in such a low state when Government had expressly

instituted a system of village relief to help these wanderers to the famine camps, or the place they wanted to go to? Although I was not in office at the beginning of the year, it would appear, from enquiries I have made, that at first the village relief was given freely, but it was used so largely that it was found necessary to restrict it, and perhaps the restrictions were applied too stringently by the village authorities, or many of these people may have been from foreign territories or very distant villages, who did not know where to get relief on the road. For instance, in the Sarungpur poor-house at Ahmedabad there were 496 admissions from January 22nd to April 2nd, 1900. They came from 134 villages, of which 73 cannot be identified. Of the 61 villages identified, 9 were in the Ahmedabad District, 38 in the Kaira District, 5 in Mahi Kantha, 7 from the Baroda territory, 1 from Cambay State, and 1 from Gwalior. The large number of villages not identified offers the presumption that they were not in British territory. According to the distances of the villages, some of the people must have come 40 miles before reaching the poor-house.

Also many did not care about staying, either on works or in the poor-house, and would break out, preferring to beg in the city until they were unable to beg any longer and would die in the streets.

Eliminating the deaths among outsiders, the increased mortality over the normal average is due in part to an outbreak of influenza, the Medical Officer of Health of Ahmedabad ascribing indeed all the deaths from fever during January, February and March to this cause. In part, also, the heavy mortality is due, the Health Officer considers, to the overcrowded state of the city, and in this I am inclined to agree with him, especially as the large number of deaths ascribed to "Bronchial affections," which are included under the heading "Other causes," points that way.

Annexure IV.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Viramgam Town Circle.

The Viramgam Town Circle returns, although of late years, since drainage channels were dug, the death-rate has been reduced, still have usually shown a high death-rate. The mortality ascribed to "Other causes" has not been so strikingly high as in Ahmedabad, the deaths attributed to fever being most numerous. Of the deaths ascribed to "Other causes" (*see* Table No. I.) the following analysis has been made :—

Cause of Death.	January.	February.	March.
Bronchial affections	51	86	49
Measles	17	18	17
Convulsions	18	20	18
Delirium	21	—	—
Starvation	8	4	2
Minor ailments	13	12	8
Total	128	140	94

In January there were a number of deaths from bronchitis, and in February an outburst of pneumonia.

Annexure V..

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Kaira Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

In the Kaira Collectorate there are seven Rural and four Town Circles. 92·4 per cent. of the population of the district live in the Rural Circles, and 7·6 per cent. in the Town Circles.

The Dharalas form the bulk of the population, there are no hill tribes or forest people, and hardly any Bhils.

The staple food in ordinary times is bajri, bavto and dhall. They are not, I am informed, addicted to liquor. They work in their own way and at their own time, and earn a comfortable living without any great exertion.

A table of mortality for the first three months in the year is appended, Table No. III. Of the total mortality in each month, 88·36 per cent. took place in Rural Circles and 11·64 per cent. in Town Circles in January, 83·04 and 16·96 per cent. respectively in February, and 86·38 and 13·62 respectively in March.

For the Collectorate as a whole, the greatest mortality is, in each month, attributed to "Other causes," but if the deaths in Rural and Town Circles are taken separately, it will be seen that it is, in the Rural Circles, the deaths ascribed to "Other causes" preponderate, whilst in Town Circles the chief cause of death is due to dysentry and diarrhœa, and so no separate analysis of the death causes in the Town Circles has been made.

A table, No. IV., giving the deaths by "ages" and "sexes," shows that the mortality was greatest amongst people 50 years of age and upwards, both in the Collectorate as a whole and in the Rural Circles. In Town Circles deaths among children under five years of age preponderate. Young adults between 15 and 20 years of age suffered least.

The deaths amongst males are, in every month, much higher than amongst females. As the mortality in Thasra Taluka was very high, an analysis of the deaths put down to "Other causes" was made, and the principal cause of death is attributed to bronchial affections, which cannot be put down as due to "overcrowding," though probably living in small huts with an insufficiency of clothing may have caused many, at the extremes of life, to be liable to disease attacking the lungs.

Cause of Death.	January.	February.	March.
Bronchial affections	506	240	325
Dropsy and dropsical swellings... ...	46	81	74
Senility	60	61	95
Want of lactation	40	18	35
Anæmia and debility	11	29	31
Emaciation...	39	40	39
Measles	13	8	25
Rickets	39	1	14
Erysipelas	21	10	18
Minor causes	75	62	81
Total	650	550	737

The District Medical Officer reports that, from enquiries he has made, it appears that the crops, which had almost matured at Heranj, Khandli, and Machial, in the Matar Taluka, were destroyed by irrigation with brackish water. The people did not drink this water; but even if they did, the effect was not harmful, as the mortality in the Matar Taluka is the lowest of all the talukas in this district.

Annexure VI.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Panch Mahals Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

The Panch Mahals is a district in which are many Native States. It consists of five Rural Circles and two Town Circles. It is roughly divided into the Eastern and Western Mahals, of which the Bhils live chiefly in the eastern part, whilst the Kolis and Nikvas occupy the western portion. The staple food in ordinary times is Indian corn for those living in the east and bajri for those in the west, whilst on relief camps the Rangoon rice and mug dhall have been used.

The Bhils are reported to drink whenever they get a chance, but are of active habits and hardy, and will work after their own fashion. The Kolis also drink as a regular habit, but not to any extent—they are not hardy and are not inclined for work (only) except at their own times and in their own way. Of the total population 91·2 per cent. live in the Rural Circles and 8·8 per cent. in the Town Circles.

A table, No. V., is appended, showing the deaths by causes in the Rural and Town Circles, and this shows that in all the Rural Circles the deaths returned as due to fever far outnumber the rest of the deaths.

The difficulty is to explain this high percentage. There is little doubt that many of the deaths ascribed to fever are not due to it, but from the village agency for registration too much cannot be expected. Plague has not been prevalent in the zilla, nor influenza, nor relapsing fever. The causes appear to be in the people themselves. Mostly agricultural, they have held on as long as any cattle remained alive, supporting themselves by selling wood, &c. The Bhils also have been waiting for the mowra crop, which has failed, and as these people were averse to State aid, averse to the work offered, the death-rate went up, and even when they did come on to work, being in poor condition, they were not able to recover, and the death-rate increased.

A table, No. VI., is appended, showing the deaths by "ages" and "sexes." As regards "ages" the largest number of deaths occurred amongst those 60 years of age and upwards, both in the Collectorate generally and in the Rural Circles. The infantile mortality is also high, and so is also the mortality after the age of 30. The Rural Circles and Town Circles, but especially the latter, show a large number of deaths of people aged between 30 and 50 years of age.

The deaths amongst males far exceed those amongst females.

Of the two Town Circles, Godhra and Dohad, the population is a little over 8 per cent. of the whole population of the zilla.

The mortality statistics for Godhra Town Circle are appended (Table No. VII.). For the early months they have to be amended, as the deaths occurring in the poor-house have not been included.

Of the total deaths in the first quarter of the year, 65·4 per cent. occurred amongst males, and the very great majority were Hindus of low caste. 48·7 per cent. of all the deaths are ascribed to "Fever" and 43·9 per cent. to "Other causes" The sudden drop in March of deaths put down to "Other causes," with a corresponding rise in the number of deaths under the head "Fever" is very noticeable.

Regarding the analysis of deaths from "Other causes," in January and February there occur 43 and 77 deaths from starvation. These are amongst people picked up dead, or nearly so, in the vicinity of the town. In February occurs the large number of 132 deaths ascribed to "General debility." All these are attributed to famine. After February the deaths which arise from famine causes would seem to be transferred to the heading "Fever," as there is nothing else to account for such a sudden and heavy rise in the fever rate. The deaths in Godhra Town Circle for April and May are also included in the above table. Cholera commenced in the town, but the incidence, as shown in the returns, was very slight. The number of deaths ascribed to fever still continue high.

The increase in the Dohad Town Circle mortality is due to the inclusion in the Town Circle register of deaths occurring in the poor-house, the tank work, and the hospital. No deaths are ascribed to "Starvation," but of the numbers picked up dead in the outskirts, if there were signs of purging the death was ascribed to "Diarrhœa," if not, then to "Fever."

Annexure VII.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Broach Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

The Broach Collectorate consists of six Rural Circles and two Town Circles, and on the north and east is bordered by Native States.

Throughout the Jambusar and Vagra Talukas and the Hansot Mahal the water is brackish. Between the upper stratum and a lower one, about 13 or 14 feet down, the sweet water-supply is obtained, and this is drunk. The brackish water is not used for drinking or irrigation.

The inhabitants are mostly Kunbis, Borahs, and Girasias, with a small number of Bhils and Talavias. Of the total population 84·7 per cent. live in the Rural Circles and 15·3 per cent. in the Town Circles. With the exception of the Bhils, the inhabitants do not take much liquor, and their food in ordinary times is jowari, kitcheri, and chas, and three meals a day are usually taken. A table, No. VIII., showing the number of deaths and the death-rate, and the average ten years' mortality for the months of January, February, and March, is appended, and also a table of deaths by ages and sexes (No. IX.). Of the total mortality in January, 83·5 per cent. occurred in Rural Circles, and 16·5 per cent. in Town Circles; in February the percentages were 82·7 and 17·3 respectively; and in March 79·5 and 20·5. Thus there is a gradual increase in each month in the percentage mortality in Town Circles. More than half the deaths in each month are ascribed to "Fever." The mortality attributed to "Other causes" is also high, but the percentage to the total deaths diminishes slightly from January to March, whilst that from dysentery and diarrhœa goes up.

Amongst Rural Circles the highest mortality occurs in Vagra and A'mod, then in the Jambusar and Broach Talukas, and then Hansot and Anklesvar; and in March there is a very decided rise in the mortality in the Anklesvar Taluka, and it was in March that the people were drafted to the works in this taluka.

There were no deaths from cholera and but one from small-pox. From starvation 26 deaths were reported in January, 5 in February and 10 in March.

The mortality in the Rural Circles is ascribed in January to a large number of the people and strangers wandering about and not getting subsistence, also to the cold which, it is stated, drove many from the works and prevented others going there, and to the alteration in the mode of living and working; but as the cold was not prolonged and the people must soon have got to know where employment was obtainable, and as the mortality increased every month, the cause is to be attributed to the people not coming on the works. Jowari was first eaten and then Rangoon rice and then jowari again; but change of diet appeared to make no difference in the mortality. Also, as noted above, brackish water is present in part of the district, but as the people are reported to have used the sweet water they were always accustomed to, this could not account for the mortality.

The Table No. IX. shows that the heaviest mortality occurred amongst children between 1 and 5 years of age, and next to this those 60 years and upwards in age were the chief sufferers.

In this Collectorate also the deaths amongst males are in excess of those amongst females.

Annexure VIII.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Broach Town Circle.

In the Town Circles the deaths ascribed to fever and dysentery and diarrhœa were comparatively few in number. The deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa increase in number gradually from January to March. The largest number of deaths is, however, put down to "Other causes."

In Broach Town these have been examined and the following table is appended. The general death causes are shown in the table of deaths for the district:—

Months.	Total Deaths.	Deaths amongst Strangers.	Sex.	
			Male.	Female.
January	402	112	226	176
February	492	170	291	201
March	733	239	386	347
April	584	150	306	278
May	929	309	466	463

There were more male than female deaths, and the infantile mortality was heavy. The low-caste Hindus—Bhils, Talavias, Dhers—suffered most, losing over 65 per cent. of the total number of deaths recorded, and then the Mahomedans over 20 per cent. in the first quarter of the year. In May 210 deaths took place from cholera. Of the mortality ascribed to "Other causes" the chief causes of death and the numbers dying therefrom are:—

Cause of Death.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.
Bronchial affections	89	103	205	104	118
Measles	44	90	246	191	102
Senility	91	90	102	82	88
Convulsions	24	27	25	26	24
Anæmia	68	90	25	19	18

The measles and convulsions mostly occurred amongst the infants. The deaths put down to anæmia and senility were probably due to famine causes.

All picked up dead were strangers, and the cause of death was certified by a medical man; but there is no record as to the numbers picked up dead in and around Broach Town. Leaving out the deaths amongst strangers, the mortality in Broach has been very high, and is due to overcrowding and bad ventilation, to which is due the spread of measles and the large number of bronchial affections.

Annexure IX.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Clarkson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, on the Mortality in the Surat Collectorate for the first Quarter, 1900.

Surat consists of 8 Rural Circles and 2 Town Circles. The worst affected district is Mandvi, but there is also distress in East Bardoli and parts of Bulsar and Pardi. The people mostly affected by famine are the Kaliparaj, but also Kolis and Mochis have suffered. The staple food of these people is nagli, kodra, baoti and rice, and three meals are usually enjoyed. Dhall does not seem to be used, but wal (a kind of bean) is eaten with nagli bread. Toddy is largely drunk and country liquor also. The Kaliparaj are similar to the Bhils in habits and like to live in scattered hamlets. There is much brackish water in Olpad, but not used for drinking or irrigation. The water in Mandvi is not brackish, but dries up very quickly. A large number of people from the neighbouring Native States are reported to have come into this taluka.

Tables Nos. X. and XI. are appended giving the causes of deaths and the ratios and the deaths by ages and sexes. In the Collectorate on the average for the first three months three-fourths of the total deaths occurred in the Rural Circles, and although the majority of deaths in each month are ascribed to fever, the deaths attributed to "Other causes" are also very high. In the Rural Circles the deaths due to fever are twice as high as the deaths from "Other causes," but in the Town Circles the reverse is the case and deaths due to "Other causes" are greatly in excess. Whatever numbers of strangers may have come into the taluka of Mandvi, not many found their way to the head-quarter town, and the number of deaths ascribed to fever is due to people wandering about and not going on the works.

As regards the deaths in the Surat Town Circle (*see* Table No. XII.), which are in each month a little more than double the usual number, a table is given showing the causes of death. The deaths entered under the heading "Other causes" are in the great majority, and the analysis of them shows that to lung affections and measles the increase is due. The number of deaths increases from January to March and then falls in April, and would have continued to fall in May but for an outbreak of cholera.

The short table of the causes of deaths in Mandvi Town is appended (No. XII.).

FAMINE RELIEF MEASURES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

No. 81.

NOTIFICATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

No. M. 1360, *dated Mahábleshwar, the 16th November*, 1901.

The following correspondence between the Government of Bombay and the Government of India is published for general information:—

Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), No. 2159, dated the 3rd October, 1901:—

"I am desired by the Governor in Council to acknowledge receipt of the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 12—43-30 of the 26th August, 1901, with which was forwarded copy of the Indian Famine Commission Report of 1901.

"2. In submitting some preliminary observations upon the report I am to say that the Bombay Government fully appreciate the value of many of the recommendations made by the Commission attaching special importance to that regarding the appointment of a Famine Commissioner when relief operations are on a considerable scale, and are anxious to discuss in an entirely conciliatory spirit the questions regarding which they are not at present able to accept the views of the Commission. The Governor in Council is, however, of opinion that the exact position occupied by the Bombay Government during the late inquiry should be placed formally on record, not from a desire to embark on any controversy, but with the view of making it clear why this Government feel constrained now to make some remarks on certain paragraphs in the Commissioners' Report.

"3. When the Resolution appointing the Commission was communicated to this Government it was noticed that no representative of the Bombay Presidency had been appointed to serve with the Commission. The Governor in Council acquiesced in this omission, because he felt the force of the argument that an inquiry into the manner in which famine had been dealt with in Bombay should be carried on by an entirely independent body. But some portions of the report of the Commission cause this Government to regret that they did not at the time of its appointment suggest to the Government of India that the precedent of the Famine Commission of 1898 should be followed, and a Commissioner appointed from Bombay, not to assist in the preparation of the ultimate report but to watch the evidence given before the Commission so far as it affected Bombay, and to call the attention of this Government to points on which, in his judgment, it would have been well for them to have offered explanations to the Commissioners.

"4. The Government of Bombay do not claim for a moment that, in their endeavours to deal with a famine of unprecedented severity, and one which devastated districts where famine had been unknown within the memory of man, they have made no mistakes. Neither do they complain of the manner in which the Commissioners have embodied their criticisms—on the contrary, they fully appreciate the well-deserved tribute the Commissioners pay to the local officers of this Government as a body for the zeal and ability with which they discharged their very arduous duties. The observations made further on in this letter on certain paragraphs (up to paragraph 236) in Part II. of the report are, therefore, merely dictated by the desire of this Government to lay before the Government of India certain considerations and facts which, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, may not have been fully brought to the notice of the Famine Commission.

"5. The general tenour of the Commissioners' remarks, in so far as they are unfavourable to Bombay, is to the effect that, whilst in the earlier stages of the famine relief was extravagantly given in the Central Provinces, it was not given with sufficient liberality in Bombay. The Governor in Council acknowledges that at the commencement of the famine the Government of Bombay under-estimated the resources and staying power of the inhabitants of Gujarát, which, as the Governor General in Council is aware, had long been regarded as one of the most fertile districts in India. Famine had been unknown there for 75 years, its population were well-to do; and in Gujarát, if anywhere, it might reasonably have been supposed the cultivators would have saved money against a time of need. The Governor in Council therefore submits that the then Government of Bombay had good reason to believe at the outset that the distress in Gujarát might be dealt with on principles analogous to those which had proved amply sufficient in 1897 in the far poorer districts of the Deccan. I am to add that the Government of Bombay felt that the language of the Government of India's Circular No. 2-FAM. of 27th December, 1899, imposed upon them the absolute necessity for economy in the expenditure of monies contributed by the Government of India for famine expenditure; and that the knowledge that this Government had already been constrained to appeal to the Government of India for liberal assistance in connection with Plague expenditure rendered them especially anxious to incur no imputation of waste of public money.

"6. With regard to the specific criticisms of the action of the Bombay Government made by the Commissioners in Part II. of their report the Governor in Council is not of opinion that it is necessary to reply to each of them in detail since he apprehends that the main object of the appointment of the Famine Commission was to devise improved means for dealing with possible future conditions rather than to criticize in detail incidents of the late famine. It is also inferred from the terms of the Resolution of the Government of India that a separate communication will be received regarding some of the important general questions reserved for further discussion, and at any rate it would not be appropriate to express a final opinion regarding them until the principal officers engaged in the administration of famine relief in the Presidency have been consulted and there has been an opportunity for mature consideration. The object of the present communication is to point out certain facts and considerations to which, although they have a material bearing on some of the views expressed in their report, the attention of the Commission has not been directed but which would have been brought to their notice if a representative of this Government acquainted with them had been present at the inquiry. As the remarks made below amount largely to corrections of statements of fact, it is hoped that the same publicity will be given to them as to the report of the Commission."

I.—Paragraph 63 of the report speaks of 'Orders' given by the Chief Secretary. The Government of India are aware that the Chief Secretary had no power to issue orders, and the responsibility for their issue must rest with the Bombay Government themselves by whom the orders were promulgated.

II.—With reference to the statement in paragraph 31 of the report quoted in the margin it is to be observed that the correspondence with the Government of India regarding the report of the Famine Commission of 1898 was not completed when the last famine began. All the correspondence was communicated to the local officers and their attention was called to the more important points. The principles accepted by this Government and approved by the Government of India, which were in the main those followed with success in the famine of 1896-97, could not have been more clearly put before these officers. Special instructions were issued at a very early stage regarding the relief of hill tribes, the trial of systems of piece-work and supply of fodder, and not long afterwards regarding the classes of works to be selected in various circumstances, the organization of village relief and the treatment of persons newly arriving on works.

'In Bombay * * the apparent absence of a clear appreciation on the part of its officers as to what the general administrative policy of the Bombay Government was led to hesitation and misunderstandings which would, we think, have been avoided had a clear plan been laid down and published in advance.'

III.—In paragraph 26 of the report it is recommended that in Bombay the village accountant should be placed under the supervision of the Circle Inspector, who in his turn should be brought more immediately under the control of the District authorities. This is the arrangement actually in force so far as the duties of the Circle Inspector other than technical work connected with survey are concerned. These officers are appointed by the Collectors and are subordinate to the Mámlatdárs, and the rules provide that the village accountants shall as regards the duties referred to be under the control of the Circle Inspectors. It is intended by this Government to assign to the latter class of officers general land revenue duties as well as duties connected with land records, as desired by the Government of India, with as little delay as possible, and they will then be in all respects part of the general administrative staff. It is the case that the statistical information is compiled so far as it relates to agriculture in the office of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture and so far as it relates to mortality in the office of the Sanitary Commissioner, it being held that this course would avoid delay in obtaining the general results. As at present advised the Governor in Council anticipates no difficulty in giving effect to the view of the Commission and of the Government of India that the returns should go through the Collector's office and be collated under his supervision, but as a matter of fact that officer is made aware of any failure of crops and of any increase of mortality long before the statistics are compiled. His relations with the subordinate officers are so close that nothing abnormal should long escape his notice, and there is no chance of any distress occurring without his having had an opportunity of preparing for it.

IV.—It is recognized, however, that the interval between the time of ascertaining that there will be a failure of crops and the time when it is necessary to provide relief is so short that preparations should always be maintained to meet the contingency, and it is admitted that for the reasons mentioned by the Commission such arrangements were not sufficient to meet adequately the emergency which arose in this Presidency. The recurrence within two years of a more extensive famine than those of 1876–77 and 1896–97 was not considered to be a danger to be seriously anticipated. It is pointed out in paragraph 16 of the report that there were relieved in this Presidency in 1899-1900 385 millions of units as compared with 119 in 1896-97. If the number employed on works be taken separately, it is found that in 1876–77 the maximum reached was 361,172 and in 1896–97 321,203, while in 1899–1900 it was 1,011,279. Possibly the number would not have been so large if tests could have been more carefully applied, but the system was the same in 1899–1900 as in 1896–97, and in the opinion of the Governor in Council this Government could not have obtained an establishment sufficiently strong to deal adequately with more than a million workers in the manner recommended by the Commission. The Governor in Council is in entire accord with the Commission as to the desirability of paying the able-bodied strictly according to results and of daily disbursements, but these objects cannot be fully attained unless there is an establishment competent to adjust the tasks to varying circumstances and especially to the powers of the workers for the time being and to make daily measurements. Sufficient establishment for these purposes, the first of which involves the constant exercise of very careful discretion, was not available in this Presidency, and though the object aimed at will be worked up to as far as possible, it is feared that if so wide-spread a calamity recurs the difficulty of obtaining an establishment which can effectually carry out the system proposed will not be overcome unless very complete changes take place promptly in the social economy of the province.

V.—The view that all sources of supply were not tapped is expressed in paragraph 28 of the report. So far as superior officers of the Public Works Department are concerned, as many as possible were placed at the disposal of this Government by the Government of India, but some of these as well as one of the officers belonging to this Presidency were employed in Native States. Lists of candidates were also obtained and offers were made to such of them as seemed likely to be of use and applications were invited by advertisement. The same course was followed with

regard to Public Works subordinates, and application was made for aid also to the Governments of Bengal, Madras, and the Punjáb, and to the Principal of Thomason College. It does not appear to the Governor in Council that it was possible to do more than was done in the Public Works Department to obtain persons fitted for the technical part of the management of works.

VI.—It is suggested in paragraph 28 that persons who had not received a professional training might have been employed. This course was adopted as far as was considered to be practicable. In all offices, and especially in Collectors' offices, there are maintained lists of all candidates qualified for Government employment. But they were all needed for other duties. The Commission has perhaps overlooked the extent of the demand for clerical work and duties of inspection which has been created by plague as well as famine. The Governor in Council entirely concurs in the view expressed in paragraph 71 that the pay of a Special Civil Officer should in no case be less than Rs. 50 per month with a horse allowance of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15, and that on special important works men of a superior class with a higher salary may with advantage be employed and has always urged the importance of engaging men fit for so responsible a post. Men on smaller salaries were appointed for the simple reason that more competent men were not available in sufficient numbers. Unfortunately many have proved unworthy of the trust which it was inevitable to impose on them, and prosecutions for fraud have been somewhat numerous.

VII.—In paragraph 42 of the letter to the Government of India, No. 155-FAM., dated the 5th October, 1899, the need for European supervision was strongly urged by the Governor in Council, and repeated applications were made both to that Government and to the military authorities in this Presidency for Staff Corps Officers, but owing to military exigencies comparatively few could at any time be spared and some had to be withdrawn when they had become most useful. The Government of India rendered valuable assistance by the deputation of officers of the Postal and Burma Police Departments and during the monsoon of Covenanted Civilians and officers of the Northern India Salt Department, and such commissioned and non-commissioned Native officers as the Military authorities in this Presidency could spare were employed. The services of officers of the Customs, Salt and Forests Departments were also utilized for famine duty, and retired European officers and private gentlemen were engaged. No opportunity was lost of securing such aid, and it proved most valuable both in the management of works and in the supervision of other forms of relief, but it could not compensate for the deficiency of a trained subordinate staff.

VIII.—A greater use of non-official agency is recommended in paragraph 34, and in paragraph 136 it is hinted that more reliance should have been placed on it in this Presidency, especially in the matter of village gratuitous relief. It does not appear to be contemplated that such agency should be employed in the supervision of public works, but it is pointed out in paragraph 54 that it should be enlisted for the management of works under civil agency and that there may be similar works constructed by private individuals or communities with or without aid from the State. The Governor in Council fears that the Commission has not taken sufficiently into account the circumstances which differentiate this Presidency from other provinces. There are few large land-owners, and such as there are do not evince much willingness to aid in the administration of relief. What has been possible in this direction has been attempted by the grant of tagái for various land improvements, and much relief has been given in this very beneficial form. Village communities no longer exist as active organizations. In towns, as the Commission recognise, missionaries and native gentlemen of influence have co-operated, especially in the supervision of poor-houses. All such aid has been cordially welcomed and public testimony has been given of Government's high appreciation of it. But in the villages there has been little or no such aid procurable. According to the Code the dole should be distributed in the presence of village committees, but the Collectors continue to report that no reliance can be placed on them, that they will not assert themselves, and that they exercise no check on dishonesty. When cholera broke out in April, 1900, Government were anxious that as many small works as could be supervised with reasonable efficiency should be carried on, and suggested that local men of influence might witness payments, and again in the rains of that year urged that as many small works as could be supervised with fair efficiency should be opened. The Commissioner, N.D., also instructed the Collectors that no effort should be spared to stimulate persons capable of helping to lend a hand. There is no reason to suppose that the local officers omitted any means of enlisting the aid of non-official agency, but their efforts were practically fruitless. Where small works were opened, the supervision had generally to be exercised by a karkun of low grade with the assistance of the patel and village accountant. In the current year the number of people in need of relief in Gujarat has hitherto been comparatively small, and it has been possible to employ the majority of them on village works, but official supervision was found to be essential. The Collector of Ahmedabad reported that the village panches had proved a broken reed, patidars being found as useless as kolis, and all showing complete apathy as regards what did not affect their immediate personal interest. The fact is much to be regretted and it greatly enhances the difficulty of administering relief in this Presidency, but it must be recognized that outside the towns little reliance can be placed on non-official agency to supplement the deficiency of official supervision.

IX.—In these circumstances it seems to the Governor in Council that it would not have been possible to employ the majority of the people in need of relief in 1899–1900 on village works. If the supervision was inadequate when the people were concentrated on large works, it could not have been effectual at all if they had been scattered over numerous small works. This Government have always recognized that there are advantages, especially in certain seasons, in the employment of distressed persons on village works and there have generally been some such works entered in their programmes, but such employment on a large scale has always been reported to be impracticable with anything like the establishments this Government have hitherto been able to secure. It is admitted that the programmes were defective, particularly those for Gujarat, which was supposed to be immune from famine. But it was not only on that account that there was difficulty in employing the people on village works in that province. There is virtually in every village a tank which can be deepened, and there is scarcely any other form of employment available. The difficulty was entirely one of supervision. The utmost efforts of the local officers succeeded in providing on village works for but a small proportion of those in need of relief. The highest numbers were found in Kaira in July and August, when they were respectively 15,697 and 10,499, but the numbers on works managed by the Public Works Department in that district in the same months were respectively 127,524 and 80,526. The Commissioner, N.D., expressed his belief that the village works in 1900 were mere dole camps. In the current year more people have been employed on such works with more satisfactory results, but the reason is that the total number to be provided for has been of manageable dimensions, and that although the works are shown as being under Civil Agency, the Public Works Department aids in the supervision. For these reasons this Government cannot accept without reservation the view expressed in paragraph 58 that much of the panic and some of the mortality in Gujarat would have been avoided if there had been a more complete scheme of village works in reserve.

X.—As regards Medical and Sanitary establishments the Governor in Council concurs in the remarks made in Section XVIII. of the report, but it is not clear that in respect of this matter also the Commission has taken sufficient account of the magnitude of the famine and of the military exigencies which prevented such aid being obtained from the Military Department as might otherwise have been possible. In February, 1900, it was reported that all local resources had failed to supply sufficient Hospital Assistants, and applications to the Military authorities and to the Governments of Bengal and Madras were unsuccessfully made. The Sanitary Commissioner was then authorized to employ 115 compounders and also to offer a consolidated salary of Rs. 60 instead of the ordinary salary of Rs. 40 for temporary Hospital Assistants, but only six were attracted by the increased rate of salary. On the outbreak of cholera in April the Government of India were requested to send 40 Hospital Assistants, but could supply only 21, and these had to be recalled in July for military duty, being replaced by Civil Hospital Assistants and Assistant Surgeons. Later in the year more were needed on account of the virulent epidemic of fever, and it was fortunately then possible to meet the demand almost fully. There was some delay in issuing salary slips and consequently in payment of salaries owing to a defect in the system of communicating the appointments to the Accountant General, but on the defect being reported it was at once removed.

XI.—As already indicated, the Governor in Council does not dissent from the view stated in paragraph 28 that, if there were sufficiently strong and competent establishments, a penal wage as well as an ordinary minimum wage would be unnecessary. But the implication in paragraph 102 that the nine chataks wage was regarded by this Government as sufficient for subsistence when received in idleness is based on defective information. The intention of the penal wage was properly described in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Government of India, No. 287—28-2-F., dated 8th February, 1900, as follows :—

'The wish of the Bombay Government is, it is understood, to fix a fair task, the performance of which will entitle the workers to the prescribed wage of 19 chataks for the digger and 15 chataks for the carrier respectively, and to reduce the wage proportionately as the work done falls below the prescribed task down to a penal wage of 9 chataks.

'This proposal the Government of India consider reasonable, provided the tasks are fair, regard being had to the condition of the people ; and provided that it is recognized that nine chataks is a penal wage and is not a safe subsistence standard in ordinary circumstances for the masses.'

The District Officers were informed accordingly, and it was impressed on them that the order for reduction of the minimum applied only to able-bodied adults. They were constantly reminded that it should not be enforced if there was reason to suppose that deficiency of outturn was due to causes other than wilful idleness, and members of the aboriginal tribes were exempted from it altogether. It is the case that large numbers of people in the Deccan who were apparently well able to do so would not earn more than the penal wage. The reason on some works was found to be that beef could be obtained at a very low price and elsewhere there must have been adjuncts to the wage. As observed in paragraph 77, the minimum wage was abandoned in Satara on account of the abuses to which it gave rise, but in that district the

following proportion of the workers earned no more than the penal minimum in four of the weeks in which distress was most severely felt :—

Week ending	Penal minimum. Per cent.	Less than penal minimum. Per cent.
12th May, 1900	20·67	36·28
19th „	22·96	49·83
30th „	23·83	60·75
6th June, 1900	30·80	42·55

If it is legitimate to pay strictly according to results even when the earnings continue small, it cannot be a hardship to restrict to a penal minimum such as are able but refuse to earn more.

XII.—As regards gratuitous relief, the Commission has not in the opinion of this Government in paragraph 140 correctly understood the intention of this Government in directing that kitchens and poor-houses should be utilized as far as they conveniently could be. The object was not to make the condition of going a considerable distance a test of need, but to keep the relief under more effective control. This Government found that it was scarcely possible to get officers of lower grades to exercise a reasonable discretion in determining who should be allowed gratuitous relief, and the risks of abuse of the grant of such relief in the villages are serious. It was considered that the difficulty would be to some extent removed if such as could go to kitchens and poor-houses were thus brought under the constant supervision of superior officers, whilst there would be left in villages near the poor-houses and kitchens for relief by the dole only the destitute unable to walk, whom even village officers could discriminate. As regards the view expressed in paragraph 142 that the people will cook their own food better than it will be cooked for them, it may be mentioned that one of the reasons assigned for great mortality in Gujarat was that those who got a grain dole often did not cook it properly and one of the advantages attributed to kitchens was that the infirm as well as children got food well cooked.

XIII.—The statements quoted in the margin occur in paragraphs 187 and 188 of the report. According to the distribution of the districts for Administrative purposes Satara and Sholapur are in the Central Division. But the important point is that Sholapur was one of the most severely distressed districts. The failure of crops was not quite so complete as in Gujarat, but there was very little grain produced. The district also suffered as much as any other in 1896-97 and the intervening seasons were not good. The proportion of the population seeking employment on works was greater than in any other district except Ahmednagar. Attention is specially called to this misunderstanding, because it has a material bearing on the discussion of the causes of high mortality in Gujarat.

"Excluding the isolated and desert district of Thar and Parkar, the figures for which appear to be altogether unreliable, the districts of the Presidency affected by famine fall naturally into three groups, *viz* :—

the four districts of the Southern Division—Satara, Sholapur, Belgaum and Bijapur ;

the four district of the Central Division—Khandesh, Nasik, Poona and Ahmednagar, with the addition of Thana, which geographically belongs to them ; and

the five districts of Gujarat—the Panch Mahals, Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach and Surat.

In the Southern Division there was little distress and the death-rates were relatively not high."

XIV.—In the extracts quoted in the margin from paragraphs 128, 135, and 195 of the report the Famine Commission comment on what they consider to be the inadequacy of village relief in Gujarat and of works near the people's homes in the Kaira and Panch Mahals districts at the commencement of the famine. Now it need scarcely be said that the instructions which were issued in regard to this matter were as fully applicable to Gujarat as to the rest of the Presidency. The necessity for timely organization of village relief was pointed out at a very early stage, but it was held both by the Government of India and by this Government that the traditional and family obligations of the social system of the country should be infringed as little as possible, and this principle was duly inculcated on district Officers. The wealthier classes of Gujarat have always had the reputation of being exceptionally charitable, and there is no doubt that private charity was extensive in that province in the early stages of the famine and was continued on a considerable scale for several months. As shown

128. We think that in the Bombay Presidency, especially in Gujarat, the distribution of gratuitous relief in the homes of the people began too late, and ended in being profuse.

135. *Village gratuitous relief.*—In Gujarat the provisions of the Code were not acted up to for many months ; and we agree with the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner in attributing to this cause much of the great mortality which occurred there.

195. We have no doubt that the mortality in the period up to May would have been less had more works been opened near the people's homes in the Kaira and the Panch Mahals Districts, and had the provisions of the Famine Code in regard to the distribution of gratuitous relief in the villages been acted upon with due liberality.

in the statement appended, village relief was commenced in Gujarat as soon as elsewhere, and although there were considerable variations in districts from time to time it was on the whole granted even up till June with little less liberality than in the equally distressed districts of Sholapur and Ahmednagar, where the mortality notwithstanding much immigration is admitted by the Commission to have been not very high, and it is to be remembered that it was supplemented by the relief in kitchens and poor-houses of persons residing within easy reach of them. It was given much more extensively in Gujarat in the period referred to than in the Deccan in the corresponding months of 1896–97 and 1876–77. The Governor in Council is unable to see that there are sufficient grounds for the general charge against the local officers in Gujarat that they did not observe the provisions of the Code relating to this matter or to admit that excess mortality was to any material extent due to restriction of gratuitous relief.

XV.—It cannot be denied that some mortality might have been averted in the Panch Mahals as well as in Khandesh if effect had been given at an earlier date to the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1898 regarding aboriginal tribes. But the difficulties of the situation are recognized by the Commission; the local officers had reasons for believing that sufficient provision was made for the time for those belonging to British territory, and the anticipation of the Collector of the Panch Mahals that Bhils would do no work if they could get a subsistence wage without working was realized. In Khandesh many of the Bhils were employed on grass operations and in both districts the emaciation first observed was amongst immigrants from Native States. It does not, however, appear to the Governor in Council that there are sufficient grounds for attributing excess mortality in Kaira to a paucity of works. There were eight relief works open in that district in October, before which month few crops are ever reaped, that is more than the rate of one for each sub-division recommended by the Famine Commission of 1880, while the district is compact without any forest. There were 12 works open in February and 14 in March, when there was employment available for everybody within a short distance of his home. It could scarcely have been desirable to multiply the works to a greater extent unless an attempt were made to employ all in their villages, and it would not have been practicable to do so consistently with efficient supervision.

XVI.—In Kaira especially and also in other districts there were able-bodied people who presistently refused to leave their homes for work. When it was found that gratuitous relief was given to save their lives, they were thereby encouraged to continue this practice. The fact was patent to all officers engaged in the administration of relief. There were thousands who deliberately remained in their villages till they were emaciated while there were works open within two or three miles. The stage of emaciation at which gratuitous relief becomes legitimate is not easy to determine, and if it is not permitted until there is manifest physical deterioration, there must be an increase of mortality amongst people with the proclivities of some classes in Gujarat. Doubtless the village officers and Circle Inspectors in the earlier stages of the famine not infrequently failed to carry out the orders that immediate relief should be given to all persons in obvious danger of death from starvation, but in the opinion of the Governor in Council no such material diminution of mortality as the Commissioners appear to belive would have resulted from such extention of gratuitous relief as would have been admissible under the provisions of the Code.

XVII.—The statement in the last sentence of paragraph 226 of the report quoted in the margin does not accurately express the opinion of this Government, which was explained in the letter to the Government of India, No. 899-FAM., dated 22nd December 1899. The Governor in Council considers it expedient to give relief by employment in their own craft to such weavers as are physically incapable of earning a sufficient livelihood on the ordinary relief works, including such as are not susceptible to the ordinary labour test without risk of imparing or injuriously affecting manual skill or delicacy of touch necessary for the successful production of fine cloth. Weavers of this class are for the most part found in Municipal towns, and it is important that for the efficient supervision of this form of relief the Municipal Councillors should be associated with the officers of Government. The Municipalities are offered loans on favourable terms for the purpose and Government undertake to bear half of any loss which may be incurred. Relief has been given in this manner on a considerable scale to weavers. Collectors are also authorised to give special relief in places other than Municipal towns to such as under a fair construction of Section 151 of the Bombay Famine Relief Code are entitled to it.

226. The Famine Commission of 1898 agreed with the Commission of 1880 that it was desirable, where convenient, to relieve artisans of whom weavers are the most numerous, through their own trades, one of their reasons being that it is important to maintain all crafts by which people are supported independently of agriculture. They were also, of opinion that a carefully managed, business-like scheme is not open to any of the objections usually urged against this class of relief; and that it would probably not result in a greater loss to Government than that caused by employing the weavers on the ordinary relief works. This opinion is more than confirmed by experience, and is now, we believe, accepted in every province except Bombay.

"7. For the reason stated in paragraph 6 of this letter, the Government of Bombay feel it incumbent on them to submit the above explanations to the Government of India, as they consider that the opinions expressed by the Commissioners are to some extent founded on incomplete knowledge of facts. They do not, however,

desire to enter upon any discussion in connection with any of these points unless further explanations of any of them should be required by the Government of India.

"8. By far the larger part of Part II. of the report consists of suggestions for dealing with future famines. It would not be possible to discuss all these proposals in detail within the limits of this letter; but I am to repeat that this Government realize that many of them are likely to prove of great value in future, and that the Governor in Council will be prepared to consider with care and endeavour to carry into effect such reforms as the circumstances of the Presidency may require.

"9. Paragraphs 236 to 287 of the report deal with the question of suspensions and remissions of land revenue. As the Government of India are aware, this question has been debated over and over again by this Government and themselves; and the Governor in Council considers it unnecessary to repeat arguments that have already been adduced and considered. I am, however, to communicate the following remarks on a few points which call for notice.

I.—The Commission in paragraph 266, though without giving the data on which it is formed, express the view that the assessment in the Deccan Districts is a full assessment for tracts where the soil is sterile and the climate precarious, and in paragraphs 268 is recorded the conclusion of the majority of the Commissioners that it is full in the Presidency generally. As the Government of India apparently accept the estimate referred to in paragraph 265 that in the Deccan the revenue absorbs about 7 per cent. of the gross produce, they presumably do not endorse that conclusion, which is not reconcilable with the very high value which the Registration records show that land ordinarily bears, with the fact that cultivation has extended in a materially greater proportion than the increase of population, and with the ease with which practically the whole demand is generally realized. As regards, however, the reference to the precarious climate, and the statement in paragraph 266 that whether the assessment be moderate or full it cannot be collected in short years without forcing the rayats into debt, it is to be observed that this Government's intention from the first has been that the rates should be such as could be paid in all but abnormal seasons. The Governor in Council is quite prepared to extend to the cultivators of this Presidency the benefit of any concessions which the Government of India may be willing to grant and will, if so desired, introduce such a system of varying the demand on account of crop failure as is recommended by the Commission, but he considers it necessary to put on record that the reason assigned for the application of the recommendation to this Presidency is inconsistent with a cardinal principle* which has hitherto always been kept in view in determining the assessment and that a sacrifice of revenue will be entailed beyond what has already been allowed to secure fixity of demand. This Government cannot avoid expressing their apprehension that interference with the custom of punctual payment which has become established is likely to result in difficulty in realizing what is determined to be fairly due and consequently in their being frequently compelled to take steps to secure payment which may be unpalatable to the people. The following comparison of the proportions of distraints (including forfeitures) to holdings in three years in this Presidency with those in the Rayatvari tracts of Madras in which the demand is varied on account of crop failure is instructive:

Provinces.	Number of holdings.	Number of compulsory processes such as distraints and forfeitures and sales of moveable and immoveable property.	Percentage of column 3 to column 2.
1	2	3	4
Bombay Presidency proper:—			
1897-1898	1,220,878	2,407	·19
1898-1899	1,226,110	5,004	·41
1899-1900	1,229,361	4,400	·35
Madras:—			
1897-1898	3,412,231	339,252	9·23
1898-1899	3,434,826	455,703	13·27
1899-1900	3,459,449	423,851	12·25

* In a letter No. 3899, dated 5th October, 1847, the Government stated:—"All the Superintendents agree in opinion that as a system remissions ought not to be granted in (surveyed) districts, and in this opinion the Honourable the Governor in Council most fully concurs. One of the principal objects Government had in view when sanctioning the revision of assessment was the doing away with the necessity of making abatements

II.—The view expressed by the Commission in the last sentence of paragraph 275 of their report quoted in the margin is not correct. There has been no interference with the power of the Collector to postpone the collection of an instalment or instalments pending inquiry. The instructions relate to the action to be taken after inquiry, which includes not only immediate remission but in accordance with the recommendation of the Famine Commission of 1880 suspension in the expectation of an early return of prosperity till the Government by a special order direct the collection of the arrears or if the circumstances are unfavourable their final remission.

"275. In Bombay there is at present no system of suspensions or remissions in ordinary years; but the terms of the Famine Code give Collectors ample powers of suspensions in the case of 'an abnormal failure of the harvest causing total or almost total destruction of the crops over a considerable area,' and direct that such suspension should be eventually followed by an inquiry into each case as to the desirability of collection or remission. It appears, however, that the executive orders of the Bombay Government have taken away the discretion allowed to Collectors by the terms of the Code."

III.—This Government will, of course, loyally accept the view which may finally commend itself to the Government of India in the matter of general suspensions and remissions adapted to the harvest conditions of whole villages or tracts without regard to the position or means of individual cultivators or landholders. But they desire respectfully to point out the result of adopting the recommendation of the Commission in such cases as those of Bijapur in 1896-97, and of the portion of Gujarat north of the Nerbudda, of Khandesh and the greater part of the Deccan in 1899-1900. There was no crop whatever in these places in the years specified except under wells and in a few spots on the banks of rivers, while in the latter year in order to encourage the cultivation of fodder crops it was announced that they would not be held liable to attachment for the revenue. If, therefore, the recommendation had been applied, it would have been necessary at least to suspend the collection of the whole of the revenue. Nothing short of this absolute measure would have sufficed to secure uniformity. The poorer cultivators could have no more paid a proportion—even a small proportion—of their dues than they could have paid the whole. Whether or not the whole is remitted in such circumstances, it will be necessary to sacrifice a large part of what could otherwise be recovered without hardship. If the well-to-do are not required to pay their assessment in the year in which it is due, it will not be readily recovered in a subsequent year, when it becomes an additional burden to them.

IV.—With reference to the remark in paragraph 242 of the report quoted in the margin, the evidence on which the conclusion has been arrived at has not been stated, but the view is expressed in paragraph 241 that the local officers felt themselves restrained by the limit which in October, 1899, the Government assigned to the estimates of suspensions. But it was distinctly pointed out before the time for recovering any revenue had arrived that what was necessary was to apply the orders properly and the result would show which estimate was the more accurate. The orders referred to were briefly that even notices were not to be issued to any persons except those who were considered well-to-do unless they had reaped at least a 4-anna crop. It was also directed that no order of distraint (including forfeiture) should be issued by an officer of lower rank than an Assistant or Deputy Collector, and any person to whom a notice was issued was to be allowed to show cause why the revenue should not be recovered from him. There was thus no justification for local officers causing loss or harassment to the people. In 1896-97 it was estimated that there would be recovered in Bijapur 60 per cent. of the revenue; there was actually paid with practically no pressure 80 per cent. The Government of the time estimated that the province of Gujarat, then reputed especially wealthy, would be able to pay as large a proportion of revenue as Bijapur did in 1896-97. The Governor in Council admits that events have not justified that estimate. But neither have they justified the estimate of the local officers. If either had been made the basis of a limit of suspension the result would have been much hardship. Under the system which was followed nobody was materially affected by the incorrect estimate, for it was made known throughout the Presidency that Government did not wish the

"We feel bound to record our opinion that much misunderstanding and much harassment and loss to the people would have been avoided, had the Local Government fixed definitely at an earlier date what the limit of suspension was actually to be, and had fixed that limit on a liberal consideration of the existing pressure."

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save in years of unusual scarcity. * * * Indeed the assessment should be so moderate as to enable the cultivators to accumulate funds sufficient to pay the assessment in years of more than average failure."

Captain (afterwards Sir George) Wingate in a letter No. 176, dated 14th November, 1846, recorded the opinion that unless for some cogent reason every unrealized balance of the survey assessment due at the end of July in each year should be written off as a remission, and this view appears to have been accepted by the Government. The levy in good years of revenue held over from short years was thus not contemplated.

The manner in which allowance is made for precariousness of climate is explained in paragraph 38 of the Resolution of Government, No. 2619, dated 26th March, 1884, containing an exposition of the policy of Government in regard to the assessment:—"No consideration is more potent in the adjustment of rates than the security or insecurity of the crops in the area under settlement. A taluka is often divided into five or six groups for no other reason than the comparative certainty of the rainfall. Thus allowance is made in the assessments for the fluctuations in agricultural returns caused by variations of season by what may be called a standing remission co-extensive with the settlement in favour of the less fortunate tracts. The principle certainly is that the assessments thus carefully adjusted to the average production should be punctually paid."

This practice is in accordance with what is said in paragraph 167 of the report of the Famine Commission of 1880, to be the generally accepted theory that "where settlements are made for a long period of years an average moderate demand should be fixed which should not vary with the ordinary fluctuations of the seasons but can and should be paid in good and bad years alike."

assessment to be exacted from anybody who had not the means to pay it. As already pointed out, if no account is to be taken of the circumstances of individuals, no limit of suspension at all should have been fixed for the greater part of Gujarat and other parts of the Presidency; no revenue at all should have been collected, as none can be recovered from the poorer occupants when the failure of crops is complete. The Bombay Government are prepared with the concurrence of the Government of India to prescribe this course for the future, but they could scarcely have been expected in the light of previous experience to have prescribed it of their own accord.

V.—The remarks in paragraph 253 of the report which are quoted in the margin can apparently be applicable only to advances made for subsistence, which up to the end of August aggregated only Rs. 4,12,116. Advances for seed and cattle were withheld until the approach of the monsoon for the special purpose of avoiding misappropriation. Large amounts were needed for cattle in Gujarat and it was clearly not desirable to bring cattle into the province until there was a prospect of grass being available. A considerable number which were imported prematurely were lost as the rain held off until the end of July, and on that account and also because in some places seed was sown without result, advances had to be increased It is, of course, also possible that some of these advances were really devoted to subsistence, although they were made after careful inquiry, but it is not clear how such misappropriation could have been prevented by any change in the system of relief.

> "The advances made under the Land Improvement Loans Acts, 24 lakhs from November to the end of May, appear to have been timely. But of 82½ lakhs issued under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 49½ lakhs were distributed after the end of June, and 30 lakhs after July. We have already noticed the character of the rains policy in Bombay, and we think that had relief operations in this Presidency been conducted from the outset on the lines we have indicated, it might not have been either necessary or desirable to make such very heavy advances after June. We do not say that in the actual circumstances of these later months the advances ought not to have been made, but the impression left upon our minds is that a large portion of them cannot be recovered, and that they were to a large extent gratuitous relief in another form."

"10. The Governor in Council does not think it necessary on the present occasion to offer any detailed remarks on the question of the establishment of Agricultural Banks in this Presidency as the general question of their establishment is now under the consideration of the Government of India; he fully agrees, however, that if they can be successfully established and maintained they may be of great value to the cultivator. I am to add that the Governor in Council has been much impressed by the very clear and concise suggestions as to the working of these Banks embodied in the Famine Commission Report and will be glad to take the matter up in due course.

"11. The remarks about advances by Government in Section V. of Part III. of the report shall receive the careful consideration of this Government.

"12. The question of indebtedness in the Bombay Presidency dealt with in Section VI. of the report is one of such magnitude as to require separate communication with the Government of India. In the meantime, as was pointed out to the Commissioners at the conference with them last January in Bombay, steps are being taken by this Government to establish a record of proprietary rights in land in the Presidency—as indeed has been recognized by the Government of India in paragraph 5 of their letter No. 1518 of 9th July, 1901."

Statement referred to in paragraph 6, clause XIV. of the letter to the Government of India, No. 2159, dated 3rd October, 1901.

District.	Percentage of persons relieved gratuitously in villages to the population of the affected area.																				
	October.			November.			December.			January.			February.			March.			April.		
	1876.	1896.	1899.	1876.	1896.	1899.	1876.	1896.	1899.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.
Ahmedabad	—	—	0·01	—	—	0·02	—	—	0·28	—	—	0·63	—	—	0·53	—	—	0·44	—	—	0·33
Kaira	—	—	0·03	—	—	0·32	—	—	0·17	—	—	0·15	—	—	0·32	—	—	0·73	—	—	1·20
Panch Mahals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·01	—	—	0·02	—	—	0·05	—	—	0·13	—	—	0·22
Broach ..	—	—	0·12	—	—	0·40	—	—	0·57	—	—	0·60	—	—	0·87	—	—	1·01	—	—	1·49
Surat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·05	—	—	0·14	—	—	0·34
Thana ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·05	—	—	0·45
Khandesh ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·23	—	—	0·51	0·02	—	0·93	0·03	—	0·70
Nasik	—	—	—	—	—	0·01	—	—	0·02	0·01	0·00	0·04	0·01	0·01	0·08	0·00	0·17	0·15	0·00	0·02	0·21
Ahmednagar	—	—	—	—	—	0·01	—	—	0·05	0·14	0·00	0·86	0·13	0·11	1·34	0·16	0·25	2·35	0·25	0·49	1·64
Poona	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·10	0·08	0·53	0·22	0·36	0·55	0·26	0·71	0·72	0·46	1·10	1·35	0·53	1·28
Sholapur ..	—	—	0·02	—	—	0·11	—	0·16	0·47	0·14	0·37	1·07	0·19	0·80	1·51	0·11	0·83	1·49	0·31	0·99	1·69
Satara ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·00	—	—	0·00	—	0·00	0·00	—	0·04	0·00	0·03	0·14	0·00	0·07
Bijapur ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·03	—	0·02	0·46	—	0·02	0·82	0·09	0·05	1·06	0·33	0·13	1·16	0·85
Belgaum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·00	—	0·07	0·05	—	0·09	0·12	—	0·19	0·16	0·01	0·59	0·16	0·04
Thar and Parkar.	—	—	0·32	—	—	0·62	—	—	1·00	—	—	1·28	—	—	0·75	—	—	0·08	—	—	0·07

Statement referred to in paragraph 6, clause XIV., of the letter to the Government of India, No. 2159, dated 3rd October, 1901—continued.

District.	Percentage of persons relieved gratuitously in villages to the population of the affected area.																				
	May.			June.			July.			August.			September.			October.			November.		
	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.	1877.	1897.	1900.
Ahmedabad	—	—	0·78	—	—	3·80	—	—	6·26	—	—	8·88	—	—	10·14	—	—	3·06	—	—	1·44
Kaira	—	—	1·70	—	—	2·67	—	—	7·56	—	—	12·76	—	—	9·81	—	—	7·13	—	—	1·02
Panch Mahals	—	—	1·16	—	—	7·13	—	—	11·27	—	—	22·76	—	—	22·93	—	—	9·16	—	—	4·42
Broach ..	—	—	1·84	—	—	3·82	—	—	14·87	—	—	20·69	—	—	17·44	—	—	16·49	—	—	9·74
Surat	—	—	0·55	—	—	2·96	—	—	5·72	—	—	6·51	—	—	2·80	—	—	1·47	—	—	0·03
Thana ..	—	—	0·80	—	—	1·15	—	—	2·06	—	—	2·26	—	—	3·78	—	—	1·49	—	—	0·65
Khandesh ..	0·01	—	0·56	0·00	—	0·72	—	—	1·14	0·03	0·00	1·99	0·08	0·04	3·75	0·06	0·01	3·23	—	—	0·78
Nasik	0·01	0·04	0·22	0·04	0·10	0·37	0·02	0·18	0·84	0·03	0·16	1·04	0·07	0·10	1·19	0·06	0·04	0·81	—	—	0·27
Ahmednagar	0·52	0·61	2·57	0·82	0·78	2·94	0·47	1·32	3·06	0·44	1·83	2·86	0·51	2·44	2·81	0·67	1·68	2·69	—	—	1·93
Poona ..	2·36	0·60	1·47	4·00	0·85	1·75	3·91	1·05	2·47	6·81	1·28	3·04	7·69	2·25	3·32	2·58	2·25	2·55	—	0·43	1·31
Sholapur ..	0·90	1·12	1·79	2·24	1·09	1·99	1·45	1·32	2·55	1·29	1·63	2·60	2·45	2·06	2·38	1·98	1·55	1·86	—	0·44	1·77
Satara ..	0·39	0·01	0·22	0·82	0·03	0·38	0·66	0·11	0·81	1·16	0·25	1·35	2·24	0·41	1·48	1·54	0·27	0·96	—	0·01	0·43
Bijapur ..	0·36	1·26	0·96	1·31	1·42	1·13	1·67	1·64	1·25	1·62	1·69	0·72	2·30	1·87	0·48	1·83	1·44	0·41	—	0·00	0·37
Belgaum ..	1·51	0·16	0·06	1·59	0·19	0·11	1·09	0·22	0·21	1·77	0·24	0·23	2·75	0·30	0·26	1·89	0·19	0·31	—	0·04	0·08
Thar and Parkar.	—	—	0·03	—	—	0·25	—	—	0·46	—	—	0·42	—	—	0·21	—	—	0·01	—	0·01	—

NOTE.—The figures of 1876-77 are inclusive of the numbers relieved gratuitously in poor-houses, as it is not possible to show the figures for village gratuitous relief separately.

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine) to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3885-43-51, dated 31st October, 1901 :—

"I am directed to acknowledge recept of your letter No. 2159 of 3rd October, 1901, making certain representations in regard to the Report of the Famine Commission, and am to state that the Governor-General in Council, while sharing the desire of the Bombay Government not to enter into any discussion of the points raised in paragraph 6, sees no objection to the publication of the letter in the local gazette.

"2. A further communication will be addressed to you in regard to the question of suspension and remission of land revenue and other questions of future policy which have been discussed by the Famine Commission."

AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS AND FAMINE RELIEF FORECASTS FOR 1902.

No. 82.

Letter from H. S. Lawrence, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), No. 133, dated Bombay Castle, the 17th January 1902.

I am directed to submit for the information of the Government of India the following report regarding the agricultural prospects and the extent of relief likely to be needed in the several districts in the current year.

2. It is now quite certain that there will be more or less pronounced scarcity for another season over the greater part of Gujarat and in parts of the Deccan and Karnatak, as well as in the desert portion of the Thar and Parkar District in Sind. The following statement shows the rainfall of the season of

1901 as compared with the normal at the head-quarters and other selected stations of each of the districts of Gujarat, Deccan and Karnatak :—

District.	Station.	June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.	
		Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.	Normal.	1901.
Ahmedabad ..	Ahmedabad ..	5·24	1·30	12·57	8·92	8·44	8·11	4·61	0·22	0·60	0·08	0·53	—
	Dhandhuka ..	4·77	—	10·42	9·49	5·62	8·95	4·47	1·30	1·06	0·75	0·43	—
	Viramgam ..	4·91	0·71	13·76	3·50	7·03	6·25	4·50	0·12	0·19	—	0·82	—
Kaira	Kaira	5·56	0·09	16·16	8·23	9·31	9·13	4·59	0·02	0·65	0·25	0·71	—
	Matar	5·22	0·38	14·28	6·35	10·12	5·01	5·05	0·10	0·48	—	0·67	—
	Thasra	6·37	3·37	13·72	7·17	9·30	10·18	5·43	0·39	0·70	—	0·38	—
Panch Mahals	Godhra	6·82	3·59	14·79	8·48	11·85	11·49	5·54	1·15	0·81	0·04	0·38	—
	Halol	5·72	2·38	16·35	11·25	11·74	11·72	5·95	0·95	1·54	0·53	0·28	0·06
	Jhalod	5·67	1·95	10·20	11·41	8·72	5·19	5·12	0·38	0·82	0·27	0·60	—
Broach ..	Broach	9·69	—	17·72	16·86	8·17	4·57	5·29	0·24	1·44	0·37	0·25	—
	Vagra	7·38	0·25	13·81	11·04	6·21	6·99	4·71	0·95	1·32	1·96	0·24	—
	Jambusar	7·18	0·17	13·37	17·74	7·09	3·43	4·37	0·13	1·17	3·14	0·39	—
Surat	Surat	9·58	0·21	21·04	12·27	7·17	3·45	5·78	0·35	1·99	0·44	0·30	—
	Olpad	7·45	0·98	18·21	11·76	6·78	2·20	4·58	0·47	1·45	1·85	0·18	—
	Mandvi	9·71	1·98	24·22	17·33	10·95	8·19	6·45	2·00	1·54	1·74	0·54	—
Khandesh ..	Dhulia	6·30	6·22	6·77	4·32	3·85	3·14	6·19	1·02	1·24	3·59	1·02	—
	Taloda	7·09	3·58	11·30	9·09	6·79	8·50	4·55	0·48	1·19	3·77	0·33	—
	Shahada	6·09	2·47	8·45	9·27	5·79	4·39	4·78	0·48	1·15	3·12	0·31	—
Nasik	Nasik	6·15	2·84	8·74	4·78	4·18	5·23	6·04	2·62	3·17	0·80	0·58	—
	Malegaon	4·35	6·36	4·49	2·33	3·22	1·91	6·86	1·18	1·68	3·30	0·61	—
	Yeola	4·29	3·91	5·19	2·04	2·85	3·17	7·50	2·25	2·17	2·82	1·23	0·02
Ahmednagar	Nagar	4·61	7·84	2·87	1·22	2·37	1·46	6·87	2·32	3·50	1·71	1·23	—
	Shrigonda	3·10	3·48	2·09	1·26	1·53	0·89	7·21	2·47	3·01	3·05	1·24	0·17
	Kopargaon ..	4·07	2·44	3·65	1·17	2·39	2·75	5·99	4·02	1·82	3·67	1·28	—
Poona	Poona	6·23	4·02	8·98	8·32	3·95	6·13	5·88	3·73	6·06	2·78	1·47	—
	Ghodnadi (Sirur)	4·24	2·78	2·48	1·65	1·61	1·46	8·10	1·54	3·65	3·73	1·30	1·15
	Dhond	5·38	1·44	3·16	2·68	1·73	2·29	6·82	3·75	3·45	2·56	0·94	1·18
Sholapur ..	Sholapur	3·77	7·81	3·88	5·36	4·53	4·06	8·26	2·83	4·03	0·74	1·66	0·03
	Karmala	3·38	2·50	2·91	2·39	2·96	2·28	9·45	6·17	3·52	1·70	1·17	0·69
	Sangola	3·38	1·28	1·61	1·88	3·72	0·87	7·00	5·10	4·00	1·92	1·06	0·63
Satara ..	Satara	7·69	2·67	14·88	11·26	7·63	9·77	4·15	5·25	5·60	3·28	0·94	0·19
	Khandala	4·04	2·55	4·07	5·33	2·37	4·54	4·34	4·49	4·37	3·58	0·94	0·17
	Dahivadi (Man) ..	3·36	2·41	2·64	2·48	1·76	1·82	6·05	5·37	5·41	2·51	1·49	—
Bijapur ..	Bijapur	4·00	7·07	2·17	0·92	2·54	0·67	7·38	5·15	4·48	2·34	1·60	0·93
	Indi	3·72	2·51	2·72	3·69	4·06	1·61	7·76	3·37	5·27	5·39	1·15	0·12
	Sindgi	4·16	1·56	3·81	6·33	4·33	0·46	7·21	3·12	4·19	1·60	2·06	0·93
Belgaum ..	Belgaum	8·67	9·60	15·42	11·81	8·73	9·40	4·78	9·38	6·51	6·33	1·76	0·33
	Athni	2·87	0·95	2·31	1·68	2·37	1·19	5·34	5·29	4·70	2·18	1·26	0·56
	Gokak	3·90	2·60	2·76	0·96	2·29	1·07	4·52	4·97	6·34	3·18	1·25	0·10

The character of the season is briefly described below :

GUJARAT.

Except in the southern coast talukas of Surat there was practically no rain till the 25th June. Between that date and the end of July rain fell in all districts, but it was irregularly distributed, being abundant in the south, moderate in the north-east and deficient in the north-west. Kharif sowings

were nearly completed by the end of the month. The young crops were then in a promising condition although slight damage had been caused in all districts by rats and caterpillars. The rainfall of August was short of the average in Surat, Broach, the western parts of Kaira and the Jhalod Petha of the Panch Mahals and was up to or above the average elsewhere. The rains so far were sufficient for all crops except rice, but rats and insects continued their depredations. In September the total fall was far short of the average, not reaching even an inch in many places, and it was received generally in very light and scattered showers mostly between the 1st and 13th. In October, November and December, there was no useful rain except in Surat and parts of Broach, where the situation was much improved by the good falls which were received after the middle of October. Elsewhere owing to the almost total failure of the late rains the rice crop over large areas has been entirely lost, the outturn of other kharif crops except such as were sown early in the season has been very poor, and there has been no rabi sowing except on irrigated lands. The damage caused by rats, locusts or other insects has also seriously affected the outturn in all the districts. Owing to deficient rainfall for the last three years in succession the water level in wells and tanks has become very low, and serious difficulties regarding supply of water for man and beast are apprehended.

Deccan and Karnatak.

The monsoon commenced in the second week of June. The rainfall in that month was generally sufficient for sowing in the western hilly tracts, but deficient in the eastern plain country. In July and August the rainfall was sufficient and seasonable throughout Khandesh and in the western hilly tracts of Nasik, Poona, Satara, Belgaum and Dharwar, while elsewhere it was not up to requirements except in a few places. In the former area kharif sowing was everywhere completed and the standing crops were in good condition. In the eastern tracts on the other hand part of the area usually devoted to kharif cultivation remained unsown, and standing crops began to wither in some places. In parts of Khandesh, Nasik and Ahmednagar some damage was also caused by rats and locusts or other insects. In September while Ahmednagar, Sholapur and the eastern talukas of Poona and Satara received some useful rain, which helped to revive the withering crops, the fall was generally insufficient in Khandesh, Nasik and the western hilly tracts of Poona and Satara, where standing crops began to suffer at the end of the month and rabi sowing was retarded. In the Karnatak the rainfall of September was sufficient and beneficial to standing crops and gave a good start to rabi sowing. In October there was most useful rain for late sown kharif crops and for rabi sowing throughout the Deccan and Karnatak and it more than made up for the deficiency of the preceding month in the Northern Deccan Districts. Locusts however appeared in parts of Poona, Satara, Bijapur and Belgaum and caused slight injury to crops. During the first week of November some useful showers fell in the whole of Karnatak and in the Southern Deccan, but there has been no rain since in any district. Standing rabi crops have consequently suffered seriously in all districts and their outturn generally is not expected to be satisfactory.

3. In a report of 11th December, 1901, the Collector of Ahmedabad observed :—

> "The prospects of the crops now on the ground are very gloomy.
>
> "Cotton pods are torn to pieces by rats as soon as they ripen ; and the 'til' crops in the Bhal, which might have produced some outturn even after the locust invasion, are being reaped wholesale by the rats, which gnaw the thick stalk through at the base and eat the green pods when the plant has fallen. They are also injuring the young wheat and will probably cause very heavy damage as soon as the ears begin to form and ripen. Nevertheless the people refuse to protect themselves by attempting to destroy the rats ; and it is only in Modasa that good progress has been made in this direction under the superintendence of Mr. Alcock. The Bhils and wild Kolis of that Mahal are not restrained by religious scruples from earning the Government reward."

Details of the losses caused by locusts were thus described in a letter from the Collector of that district dated 6th December 1901 :—

> "In the Daskroi charge the main damage was done in the Daskroi Taluka where about 22 villages round about Ahmedabad and in the tract of country to the north were completely stripped of their standing crops, the damage varying from 12 to 16 annas in

the rupee. Many other villages were damaged, but their losses were not so heavy, varying from 3 to 8 annas.

"The Assistant Collector Mr. Alcock reports as follows :—

"'I find the serious damage to have been restricted to the villages of Daskroi beyond the river (*i.e.*, north-west), and those few between the river and the Parantij Railway. Parantij Kasba and Ambavada Mahadavpura of this taluka have been injured ; the injury is confined to less than 25 per cent. of the bajri and Kamalpuri jowari which form the chief crop sown in Parantij Modasa, and which were saved almost completely and in almost every case in other villages of this taluka and mahal.

"'For Daskroi I found that the greatest damage had been done near the City (to the north), and in Hansol, Naroda and also on a line through Ranip and Vadaj to the north-west direction. Khoraj, Khodiar were very badly hit, Dantali (slightly off the line) rather less so. Gota, Chenpur, Jagatpur, &c., being mostly rice and (later) jowari villages had suffered so much from drought that there was little harm left for locusts to do. Adalaj similarly is a badly off village ; Jamiatpur, Uwarsad, and Tarapur on either side of the line have rather escaped.

"'Chandkheda on the north and Lilapur, Labkaman, Usmanbad, &c., on the south of the direct line of destruction are less badly hit, but cannot have saved more than 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. of their best earlier bajri.

"'It is to be noticed that castor oil does not seem to have been affected to the same extent as in Sanand, where it seems to have been young and tender. In Bhadaj, Sola, Thaltej the castor oil has been damaged in varying degrees, though I believe these villages to have saved 25 per cent. to 35 per cent. of their bajri and to have jowari still in the ear worth 10 per cent., and also to have got some good tobacco. For unparalleled destruction I think the Hansol-Naroda stretch of jowari fields to be the worst though the fields near the city and those just across the river are almost as bad.

"'As to Parantij I have observed the taluka from the entire length of the railway and from the Harsol Road which take in the larger part of the important tracts, and the Aval Karkun, Mr. Hussein, has just returned from a tour in which he has seen half the affected villages of the taluka. The report is encouraging ; in three villages only is the damage considerable. Bajri and "Kamalpuri" jowari have been grown everywhere and were safely reaped almost in every village and secured in threshing floors or in stacks from damage.'

"In the Sanand Taluka the principal damage was done on the east and the west ; the central portion is the rice-growing tract and as the rice was already a failure the locusts could not make matters much worse.

"The bajri crop in this taluka fared better than in Daskroi and the damage to the standing crops nowhere exceeded 8 annas and averaged about 5. On the other hand, the jowari and banti crops were completely destroyed and castor oil suffered heavily, the damage being estimated at 10 annas. The pulses had already withered from want of rain. The damage done to cotton was estimated at 8 annas, but though fresh leaves sprouted after the departure of the locusts, it is feared that there will not be any appreciable outturn.

"In the Dholka and Viramgam Talukas the arrangements made for promptly ascertaining the damage were not so good as in the talukas which I have already described, and my information is less complete and reliable.

"The principal kharif cereals grown in the Viramgam Taluka are bajri and jowari ; they had suffered severely from drought and grasshoppers before the locusts came, and it may be estimated roughly that perhaps 20 per cent. of such of these crops as had come to maturity were saved.

"Cotton was also attacked ; plants which were completely stripped of their leaves put out fresh leaves in a few weeks and bear no apparent marks of damage. But the effect has been to stunt and retard the plants, and it is doubtful if they will come to maturity. The outturn in any case will be but small.

"In Dholka the extensive Bhal tract has escaped with comparatively little loss, for the main crop here is wheat, which was hardly above ground when the locusts passed through.

"But even in the Bhal many fields of young wheat were devoured and very heavy damage was done to the standing kharif crops of bajri, tal, bavto, banti, and fodder jowari. The damage was probably greater owing to the concentration of the locust swarms on a comparatively small area of standing crops. In the village of Sinaj, where I am now camped, out of a total cropped area of 250 acres of bajri the unreaped stalks and ears are still standing in no less than 100 acres ; the locusts have removed all that was worth removing.

"The same is true of the Western Nalkantha tract ; the only matured crop of which the people have been able to save a little, perhaps 2 to 4 annas, has been bajri.

"Dhandhuka, according to my present information, appears to have suffered but slightly. Not more than 20 villages were attacked ; the cotton plants were not seriously damaged and have since had the benefit of 75 cents. of rain.

"Gogho was not attacked at all.

"From first to last the locusts did not stay in the district more than a week or ten days and a two days' camp in any one village sufficed to cause wholesale loss of crops. There was no time to infect them with the 'locust fungus,' though an attempt was made to do this, and no other measures of protection were found to be of any use."

In Kaira the collector estimates the outturn of kharif bajri, the principal crop at 6 to 3 annas in Matar, 10 to 3 annas in Mehmadabad, 12 annas in Nadiad, 8 to 10 annas in Borsad and Thasra, and 4 to 8 annas in Kapadvanj. Jowari is estimated to yield 8 to 2 annas in Mehmadabad ; bavto only 2 annas in Mehmadabad and 4 annas in Nadiad, Anand and Borsad ; kodra 2 annas in Mehmadabad, 4 annas in Nadiad, 6 annas in Borsad and 8 annas in Anand. Til was a good crop in Borsad, but tur is estimated at 3 annas only. In Kapadvanj castor seed and til are expected to yield 2 to 4 annas. In the Panch Mahals early sown maize and bajri turned out well, averaging 10 to 12 annas in the west of the district, but the late sown crops there were estimated to yield only 2 to 6 annas, the average being nearer the former. In Dohad the estimated average outturn was from 3 to 5 annas only, and in Jhalod 6 to 8 annas. The above estimate was submitted by the Collector on the 16th October, 1901, but in a later report of 29th November, 1901, he states that the outturn had been worse than expected owing to the damage done by rats In all the three districts, Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals, there will be no rabi crop except on irrigated areas, but the Collector of the Panch Mahals states that well cultivation is also greatly discouraged by the continued damage caused by rats. On the 4th November, 1901, the Collector of Broach reported that cotton appeared to be excellent, and that other standing crops generally were not altogether a failure. Later (on the 21st idem) he reported that the rabi crops—cotton, jowari and tal, which are the main crops—were good, that those of Broach Taluka were about 14 annas, and that probably the average elsewhere was not below 12 annas. Rats, however, had eaten away 2 or 3 annas, and might do twice as much damage or more before the crops are reaped. He therefore estimates that the rabi crops will not exceed 8 annas when harvested, and may be even less. In Surat the rice crop in Chorasi and Olpad has been almost a total failure. In Jalapor even irrigated rice is not expected to yield more than 8 annas. In Bardoli the early sown rice yielded something, but the rest completely withered. The outturn of rice is estimated to be 6 annas in Valod Mahal, 4 annas in Mandvi, and 10 annas to 14 annas in the Bulsar Sub-Division. Kharif jowari is estimated to yield about 6 annas in Chorasi, Olpad, Chikhli, and Bardoli, and slightly more in Jalalpor. In Mandvi it was injured by rats. Of the minor crops, bajri is estimated at 12 annas in Chorasi, and 4 to 6 annas in Olpad ; sugar-cane at 8 annas in the Chorasi Sub-Division, and 10 annas in the Bulsar Sub-Division ; banti, kodra,, &c., &c., at not more than 4 annas. There is no hope of a rabi crop except on irrigated lands in the Bulsar Sub-Division.

4. In the Deccan and Karnatak the season was on the whole less unfavourable than in Gujarat. In East Khandesh the kharif crop was fairly satisfactory, and the rabi also is expected to be fair. In West Khandesh a long break towards the end of the monsoon, and locusts and rats did considerable damage to what was a promising kharif crop. Cotton yielded about 8 to 10 annas, but it is sown on a very small area. Kharif bajri and jowari, which are the main crops, have yielded only about 3 annas. Rabi crops, for which there was excellent rainfall, may turn out well or not, according as the rat pest is active. The cropped area is, however, too small for a good rabi harvest to make up for a bad kharif harvest. In the Nasik District the estimated outturn of kharif crops is 9 to 12 annas in Igatpuri, Peint, Nasik and Dindori ; 6 to 9 annas in North Malegaon, Nandgaon, West Sinnar and the hilly parts of Kalvan, Baglan and Chandor ; and $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the plain country of the last mentioned talukas, in South-west Malegaon, Niphad, Yeola and East Sinnar. According to an estimate framed by the Collector of Ahmednagar early in October, 1901, the kharif outturn was 3 annas in Parner, Shrigonda and Sangamner ; 4 annas in Nagar, Karjat and Kopargaon : 6 annas in Rahuri, 8 annas in Jamkhed, 10 annas in Shevgaon and Nevasa, and 12 annas in Akola. According to a later estimate, however, the average for the whole district is

4 annas only. The rabi crops promised well in the beginning, and would have yielded a bumper harvest had rain fallen in November. As little rain did fall in that month, the outturn will be poor. In Poona the kharif outturn is 8 annas in the western talukas, and about 3 annas in the eastern talukas. The rabi outturn is estimated at 4 to 6 annas all round. In Sholapur the kharif outturn averaged 6 annas in Madha, Sangola, Malsiras and Karmala; 8 annas in Pandharpur, and 12 to 14 annas in Sholapur and Barsi. The rabi harvest is not expected to exceed 4 annas in the four talukas first mentioned, and the average for the whole district is estimated at 8 annas. In Bijapur the estimated kharif outturn is $2\frac{2}{3}$ annas in Muddebihal, 3 to 4 annas in Sindgi, 6 annas in Indi, Bijapur and Badami, $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas Bagevadi, and 8 annas in Hungund. In Bagalkot the crops "were in good condition," but no estimate of outturn has been reported. In a later report, dated 7th December, 1901, the collector expressed the apprehension that these estimates might prove too high. As regards rabi crops the Commissioner, S. D., states in a report of 20th November, 1901, that they are certainly not satisfactory in the north of the district, but that they have been somewhat benefited by later showers. In Belgaum the kharif outturn in Gokak, Parasgad and Athni amounted to about 4 to 8 annas, and in the remainder of the district 12 annas or a little more. The rabi harvest is not expected to be good in Gokak and Athni, owing to the deficiency of late rains and to damage caused by grasshoppers. In other talukas rabi harvest will be fair to good. In Chandgad Mahal it will be excellent.

5. In Gujarat relief is at present being given in Ahmedabad, Kaira, the Panch Mahals and Broach. Later in the year it may have to be given in parts of Surat also. As regards the Deccan, the Commissioner, Central Division, reports that the general result so far as can be seen at present is that there will certainly be no need for relief in Satara, and probably none for it in Poona and Nasik, but that some relief will be required in Khandesh, Ahmednagar and Sholapur. In the Karnatak relief will be needed in the northern parts of Bijapur, and in Athni and the northern part of Gokak in Belgaum. In Dharwar the only relief at present given is gratuitous dole to a few shetsandis in Navalgund and Nargund, but it is stated that such relief will be necessary only till the end of January, 1902. Some relief will also be required in the desert talukas of Thar and Parkar in Sind, where owing to insufficiency of rain, the outturn is estimated to be—*nil* in Chachro, $\frac{1}{4}$ anna in Mithi, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna in Nagar, 3 annas in Diplo. The areas affected or likely to be affected in the Presidency are thus :—

Ahmedabad	...	Greater part of the district.
Kaira ...	...	Do. do.
Panch Mahals	...	Whole district.
Broach ...	...	Parts of a few talukas.
Surat ...	...	Parts of Olpad and Mandvi Talukas.
Khandesh...	...	Parts of Taloda, Dhulia, Pimpalner and Nandurbar Talukas in West Khandesh.
Ahmednagar.	...	Whole district except Jamkhed, Shevgaon, Nevasa, and parts of Sangamner and Akola.
Sholapur ...	...	Madha, Karmala, Sangola and Malsiras Talukas, and probably Pandharpur Taluka also.
Bijapur ...	...	Indi, Sindgi and Badami Talukas.
Belgaum ...	...	Athni Taluka and northern part of Gokak.
Thar and Parkar	...	Desert talukas.

6. In Gujarat the general condition of the people is naturally worse than in the preceding year, and although the extent of relief likely to be required in the course of the season cannot at present be accurately estimated, still it is apprehended that the numbers on relief will largely exceed those relieved in 1900-1901. In support of this view the following extracts from the reports of the Collectors of Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals are quoted :—

AHMEDABAD.

Letter No. F.—3754, dated 23rd November, 1901 :—

"The condition of the cultivators who have through this series of bad years been incurring all the expenses of cultivation with little or no return is more serious;

and even the most prominent members of this class are very badly hit. . . . . Immigration from Kathiawar and Marwar will probably be greater in this season than in the last, and the supply of edible grass seeds is this year much smaller."

KAIRA.

Letter No. Fam.—312, dated 9th December, 1901 :—

"Even if the damage done to the crops by locusts and rats this year is left out of account, it must be borne in mind that there has not been anything like the same supply of wild seeds, such as *samo*, *manki*, and *khasli* that there was last year."

PANCH MAHALS.

Letter No. 6954, dated 16th October, 1901 :—

"In the Eastern Mahals rice has been everywhere a failure, while rabi crops are impossible. The latter makes the condition of the Eastern Mahals, where the Bhils depend much on their late sown crops, more unfavourable."

Letter No. 7886, dated 29th November, 1901 :—

"The damage done by rats, and the absence of *samo*, will, I consider, cause more people to come to the relief works than came last year."

In the Deccan and Karnatak also the areas affected in the current year have not had good harvests in any of the last five or six years excepting 1898-99.

7. The supply of fodder is generally sufficient, and no difficulty is anticipated in this respect. But the supply of water has already run short in parts of Gujarat, and there as well in the Deccan and Karnatak great scarcity of drinking water for man and beast over a wide area is apprehended. So early as 12th October, 1901, the Collector of Ahmedabad reported that "water was everywhere low in tanks and wells." About the same time the Collector of Kaira reported as follows :—

"*Water-supply.*—This is everywhere scanty. The tanks and rivers are everywhere dry or abnormally low except in Borsad, Mahudha, and parts of Anand. Irrigation by wells is also considerably restricted owing to the same cause. The supply of drinking water for cattle will be a difficulty in almost all the talukas except Borsad and Anand, but the supply for men will generally suffice except in parts of Kapadvanj. Steps are being taken to improve the supply wherever possible."

8. The following report by the Superintendent Engineer, N. D., will show the extent to which the water level in Gujarat has been affected by the defective rainfall in the past three years :—

Memorandum from the Superintending Engineer, N. D., No. 5432, dated 30th September, 1901 :—

"Undersigned has the honour to draw attention to the following figures regarding the water supply of 1901-1902 in Gujarat. Rainfall averages for Gujarat and a portion of Kathiawar taken out for the last 26 years show the following results :—

—	1876 to 1886.	1887 to 1898.	1899 to 1901 (up to date).
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Surat	44·06	44·87	23·44
Broach	44·21	43·16	21·30
Kaira	37·13	37·20	15·17
Panch Mahals	43·24	40·96	21·69
Ahmedabad	29·92	32·58	13·45
Baroda	40·58	41·42	20·23
Sadra	32·06	32 65	13·28
Palanpur...	34·58	28·99	15·09
Rajkot	29·53	28·35	19·68
Wadhwan	19·69	20.75	8 08

and show that till 1899 the average rainfall was very even, indeed a comparison of the first two periods giving approximately the same figures, while the last period of three years shows an alarming decrease, the average being over 51·2 per cent. in defect, the figures for each year being—

Year.	Per cent.
1899	79·05 defect.
1900	21·30 „
1901	52·8 „
Average	51·2 defect.

or a total loss compared with 23 previous years for the three years' period of—

—	Inches of rain.
Surat	63·10
Broach	67·07
Kaira	65·97
Panch Mahals...	61·08
Ahmedabad	53·57
Baroda	62·37
Sadra	55·94
Palanpur	49·70
Rajkot	27·68
Wadhwan	36·47

"Such a large defect for so long a period must cause a reduction in both the surface and subsoil water of the country, and it is but to be expected that rivers will run low, tanks dry up, and depth of water in the wells decrease very largely, probably to an extent that may cause almost total failure of existing supplies in certain districts. The situation appears graver than in 1899 as regards water, and unless some abnormal rainfall alters conditions, there may be a very serious situation to face. Admitting the above facts, the first step necessary appears to conserve all surface water-supply still existing by holding it up in rivers and nalas where practicable; the second, to deepen wells when necessary and advisable; and, third, to sink new wells in districts where they may be necessary to prevent migration of cattle and people.

"A great deal has been written about water-supply and subsoil water in Gujarat, as also on the possibility of tapping artisan wells, but so far as my knowledge goes there is little or no reliable data to go upon, and I doubt if the country has (within existing records, at any rate) ever been in its present condition, and looking at the light nature of the soil of the larger portion of Gujarat it appears more than probable that some districts must run short of water for drinking purposes for man and beast, to say nothing of irrigation requirements.

* * * * * *

"*P.S*—The above report was written on 30th September, but not despatched, as undersigned met the Commissioner, N.D., and decided after consultation with him to keep it pending further developments, in the meantime steps being taken for observations in all Collectorates and also arrangements being commenced for deepening wells by boring, &c., where deemed advisable.

"In October a little rain has fallen in Surat and Broach, and though tanks are more or less low or empty in some cases, and wells lower than in normal years, it is not at present anticipated that there will be any failure of water. In the Panch Mahals also, the situation is not yet bad, except in Dohad and Jhalod Talukas. In Kaira there is a diversity of opinion, as no one seems to know what the deep wells of the district will do, and though some are lower than in normal years, the village people do not seem to think they can ever fail entirely.

"In Ahmedabad water has already failed in some places, and villagers have to go two and three miles from their homes to find water. This is specially the case in the Viramgam Taluka, and it is impossible to yet say with any certainty to what extent

the water failure may develop. One thing, however, is certain, that the whole area of Gujarat is in large defect of rainfall as the result of the last three years' monsoon failure, and the situation is one which no one now living can give an opinion on from actual experience, and therefore I feel it only my duty to put the facts as they are before Government" (4th November, 1901).

9. The Deccan is not much better in this respect. In his report of the 17th December, 1901, the Commissioner, C. D., states that there will be considerable scarcity of water in the Desh Talukas of the Deccan. In his monthly famine progress report for October last the Collector of Sholapur observed :—

"The scarcity of water, however, must cause increasing distress to both man and beast as the season advances. The wells and springs have not been properly replenished, and even now (20th November, 1901) there are complaints that will multiply and grow louder during the hot weather. Government have kindly given another grant of Rs. 8,000 for the improvement of the water-supply, and all that is possible will be done. The serious thing, however, is that in many places, do what one may, no water is to be got. The continued short rainfall of the last five or six years has resulted in so extensive a shrinkage of the sub-soil water over the whole district that the old sources one used to be able to tap in time of need have nearly run dry. A good idea of the loss this part of the country has sustained in this particular may be gained from the statement kept up and now being revised to date by the G. I. P. Railway Company of the wells along their line whence they get water for their engines. The figures of the present supply, its quantity and the depths at which it is found, as compared with those of ten years ago, evoke a most alarming vision of the total disappearance of a huge volume of subterranean water all over the Deccan, on which it was formerly possible to draw in a year of drought, but which now we seek in vain. Every year now the wells all over the district yield too little water for the bagayat crops, hardly enough for drinking ; hundreds of them run dry altogether."

The affected parts of the Karnatak also are not free from anxiety on this account In his monthly famine progress report for November last the Collector of Bijapur reported that "failure of the water-supply is threatened in many villages, especially in the Bagalkot Taluka." And in his famine progress report for the same month, the Collector of Belgaum observed that "water-supply is still deficient in Athni Taluka."

10. No definite estimates of the probable numbers likely to require relief have been furnished except for Ahmedabad, Kaira, Surat and Belgaum. The Collector of Ahmedabad estimated a daily average of about 8,000 on works and 4,000 on gratuitous relief for the eight months, December, 1901, to July, 1902, but the daily average number relieved has already gone up to more than 21,000 according to the latest report. The estimate of the Collector of Kaira for the same period is about 1,200 on all kinds of relief, but according to the latest return nearly 8,000 people are already being relieved daily. The Collector of the Panch Mahals expected the numbers on works to rise to 7,000 by the end of December, 1901, to 15,000 to 20,000 in the hot weather, and to decline to 5,000 as the rains approached. He thought that the dole figures would not exceed 3,000 in the hot weather. On relief works in the Panch Mahals, however, the numbers have already gone above 27,000, or nearly double the number relieved in December, 1899. From a communication, dated 3rd January, 1902, received from the Commissioner, N. D., it appears that the demand for relief in the three Northern Gujarat Districts is already assuming large dimensions, It is therefore certain that relief on a much larger scale than was previously estimated by the collectors will be needed in those districts. The Collector of Surat does not think that any relief work will be needed. He estimates that a daily average number of 1,000, 1,700, 4,500 and 8,000 will require gratuitous relief in April, May, June and July, 1902, respectively. The estimate for Belgaum is a daily average of about 9,000 for seven months, April to October, 1902.

11. In the last season the numbers on relief did not on the whole show a marked upward tendency till February or March. But in the current season they began to rise in November last and have since continued to increase in Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals. As regards the Deccan and Karnatak the numbers are still going down in Sholapur and Ahmednagar, but in Bijapur they showed an increase of more than 1,000 in the last week of December as compared with the preceding week.

The following statement shows the daily average numbers relieved in the districts which are now affected from December, 1899, to October, 1900, and from December, 1900, to October, 1901 :—

Month.	Ahmedabad.	Kaira.	Panch Mahals.	Broach.	Surat.
December 1899 ...	35,946	15,700	14,942	63,716	4,726
January 1900 ...	82,918	18,664	17,481	94,344	8,688
February „ ...	120,476	41,977	18,605	110,241	10,934
March „ ...	137,237	84,907	20,683	104,187	15,219
April „ ...	160,140	106,945	48,786	85,346	16,435
May „ ...	126,980	86,518	37,387	78,981	9,584
June „ ...	131,150	125,067	72,989	75,288	23,214
July „ ...	188,582	223,872	111,487	123,247	35,951
August „ ...	192,909	212,120	124,173	112,192	32,887
September „ ...	140,514	109,609	93,461	76,739	14,051
October „ ...	38,479	69,265	32,369	63,868	7,396
December „ ...	7,429	245	8,797	5,716	11
January 1901 ...	7,049	—	5,209	4,216	—
February „ ...	8,896	130	5,944	1,851	—
March „ ...	9,677	6,436	8,693	1,276	176
April „ ...	17,895	33,868	16,554	1,619	947
May „ ...	27,602	48,730	16,993	1,706	1,538
June „ ...	34,749	47,612	15,991	2,154	2,082
July „ ...	36,011	36,076	13,049	1,725	1,829
August „ ...	26,221	2,279	11,612	418	—
September „ ...	10,085	328	8,482	121	—
October „ ...	3,218	254	2,119	10	—

Month.	Khandesh.	Ahmednagar.	Sholapur.	Bijapur.	Belgaum.	Thar and Parkar.
December 1899 ...	187,355	41,390	68,042	1,745	1,538	2,970
January 1900 ...	234,780	99,925	136,549	6,389	1,342	3,256
February „ ...	252,678	180,576	152,834	8,240	1,790	3,892
March „ ...	270,523	240,206	169,376	13,443	2,195	3,825
April „ ...	215,863	249,486	170,291	24,598	2,694	8,621
May „ ...	219,232	244 373	162,343	23,757	2,156	10,794
June „ ...	204,054	269,415	171,335	21,916	3,167	5,928
July „ ...	206,806	252,526	157,685	19,190	4,677	3,607

Month.	Khandesh.	Ahmednagar.	Sholapur.	Bijapur.	Belgaum.	Thar and Parkar.
August 1900 ...	179,086	219,206	132,167	11,907	2,149	2,199
September „ ...	137,152	175,470	96,144	8,137	934	592
October „ ...	71,470	90,721	67,881	6,724	1,079	35
December „ ...	3,657	37,322	94,067	6,946	—	—
January 1901 ...	653	48,839	83,382	9,854	—	—
February „ ...	553	56,720	66,225	10,359	—	—
March „ ...	880	59,275	56,315	13,807	390	—
April „ ...	3,024	74,726	60,917	18,912	1,896	—
May „ ...	5,990	100,102	67,251	22,983	2,486	—
June „ ...	16,115	118,915	82,907	29,673	7,968	—
July „ ...	42,633	125,277	95,576	33,530	19,406	—
August „ ...	32,727	125,145	87,367	36,474	26,922	—
September „ ...	1,859	118,039	64,554	46,659	22,939	—
October „ ...	—	63,840	41,197	33,651	18,927	—

During the four weeks of December, 1901, the numbers on relief fluctuated as follows :—

District.	1901.			
	Week ending.			
	December 7th.	December 14th.	December 21st.	December 28th.
Ahmedabad	8,073	11,108	16,026	21,769
Kaira	1,292	2,724	4,729	7,683
Panch Mahals	7,960	14,340	18,085	27,165
Broach...	—	251	583	1,224
Ahmednagar	12,324	11,794	11,028	10,361
Sholapur	3,727	3,391	3,234	2,481
Bijapur	10,373	9,798	8,930	9,933
Dharwar	11	20	11	5
Thar and Parkar	99	146	162	158
Total	43,859	53,572	62,788	80,789

As shown below, prices of food-grains are likely to be easier this year than last-year. But the grass seed (Samo) which was so abundant in Gujarat last year, and on which large numbers of people subsisted for several months, has not been produced this year in any appreciable quantity. Immigration from Native States is also a factor to be taken into consideration this year. In

Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Mahals relief will therefore be required on a much larger scale than last year, but considering the description of crops as given by the collectors, the Governor in Council thinks that the numbers in Ahmedabad and Kaira will not probably rise to more than half of what they were in 1900. In the Panch Mahals present conditions indicate that the numbers may approach the figures of 1900. In Broach and Thar and Parkar relief on a small scale will, it seems, be necessary. In Surat and Khandesh a very small measure of relief if any may be required later in the season. In Ahmednagar and Sholapur the outturn of crops is much better, and prices are easier than last year, and if relief has to be continued throughout the season it will probably be on a much smaller scale. In Bijapur the number on relief in the last week of December was equal to the average of January, 1901, and the numbers show a tendency to rise. In consideration of these circumstances and on the assumption that next monsoon will be favourable, it is estimated that the daily average numbers to be relieved in the current season will be as shown in the following table :—

Month.	Ahmedabad.	Kaira.	Panch Mahals.	Broach.	Surat.	Khandesh
Actuals (in round figures).						
November, 1901	4,000	400	3,000	—	—	—
December „	14,300	4,000	17,000	500	—	—
Estimates.						
January, 1902	35,000	15,000	40,000	2,500	—	—
February „	55,000	25,000	45,000	4,500	—	2,000
March „	75,000	40,000	50,000	6,000	—	3,000
April „	95,000	50,000	60,000	7,500	1,000	6,000
May „	105,000	60,000	70,000	9,000	2,000	10,000
June „	115,000	75,000	75,000	10,000	4,000	15,000
July „	100,000	70,000	70,000	8,500	8,000	12,000
August „	40,000	30,000	30,000	3,000	2,000	5,000
September „	15,000	10,000	10,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
October „	2,000	1,000	2,000	500	—	—

Month.	Ahmednagar.	Sholapur.	Bijapur.	Belgaum.	Thar and Parkar.	Nasik, Poona Satara and Dharwar.
Actuals (in round figures).						
November, 1901	16,500	14,300	19,300	6,000	25	1,500
December „	11,400	3,200	9,800	—	200	—
Estimates.						
January, 1902	10,000	3,000	12,000	—	500	—
February „	10,000	3,000	15,000	—	1,000	—
March „	20,000	8,000	18,000	—	2,000	—
April „	35,000	15,000	25,000	4,000	3,000	—
May „	50,000	20,000	30,000	5,000	5,000	—

Month.	Ahmednagar.	Sholapur.	Bijapur.	Belgaum.	Thar and Parkar.	Nasik, Poona Satara and Dharwar.
Estimates—cont.						
June 1902	60,000	30,000	35,000	7,000	3,000	—
July „	80,000	40,000	40,000	9,000	1,500	—
August „	70,000	30,000	30,000	12,000	1,000	—
September „	40,000	15,000	15,000	12,000	500	—
October „	10,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	—	—

12. According to these estimates the numbers of units likely to require relief from January to October, 1902, will be as shown below (the actuals from April to December, 1901, are also shown) :—

—	Number.
Actuals—	
April to October 1901	74,498,000
November 1901	2,276,000
December „	1,692,000
Estimates—	
January 1902	3,304,000
February „	4,494,000
March „	7,770,000
Total from April 1901 to March 1902 ...	94,034,000
April 1902	8,442,000
May „	12,810,000
June „	12,012,000
July „	12,292,000
August „	8,855,000
September „	3,374,000
October „	882,000
Total from April 1902 to October 1902	58,667,000

13. The following table shows the prices of jowari and bajri as they stood at district headquarters in the middle of December in the years 1900 and 1901 :—

District.	Jowari.				Bajri.			
	1901.		1900.		1901.		1900.	
	Seers.	chataks.	Seers.	chataks.	Seers.	chataks.	Seers.	chataks.
Ahmedabad	15	0	15	6	14	0	14	11
Kaira	17	8	14	0	14	8	15	8
Panch Mahals	(Not sold)		15	13½	14	8	13	12
Broach	15	0	13	0	13	8	13	2
Surat	15	4	11	8	14	13	12	8
Khandesh	16	10	13	5⅜	15	6	12	8
Nasik	15	5	9	10⅛	15	6	12	10⅜
Ahmednagar...	16	8	9	8⅛	16	1	12	0
Poona...	11	8	11	4½	14	15	11	12⅛
Sholapur	17	14	9	10⅜	19	3	11	10⅜
Satara...	18	6	9	13⅜	20	13	10	11½
Bijapur	17	4	10	1	19	13	12	5
Belgaum	16	10	11	7	17	9	10	12
Dharwar	22	1	11	5	22	1	12	2

14. It will be seen that in December last the prices were generally easier than at the same time in 1900, and prices in 1902 are not likely to rise higher than in 1901. In framing the estimates of expenditure in the current season the same rate per 1,000 units as that resulting from the actual expenditure during April to October, 1901 (of which audited account figures are available) has therefore been adopted. The rate works out to Rs. 80.*

*Rs.	Thousands of Units.
59,28,000	74,498

15. The budget provision for famine expenditure in the current year amounts to Rs. 33,28,000 in the Civil and Rs. 66,56,000 in the Public Works Departments. The actual expenditure in the Civil Department up to end of November last amounted to a little over Rs. 24,44,000. The balance still available out of the Civil budget provision will more than suffice for expenditure in the remaining months of the current year. The actual expenditure in the Public Works Department up to end of October last amounted to Rs. 35,91,684, and the Public Works Department is considering what amount out of the budget grant should be surrendered to the Government of India after retaining sufficient amount for the requirements of the remaining months of the current year.

16. The estimated total number of units to be relieved from April to October, 1902, is 58,667,000 or 59 millions in round figures. At the rate of Rs. 80 per 1,000 units the total estimated cost of relief in next year will therefore amount to Rs. 47,20,000. During the period from April to October, 1901, the proportion of Civil to Public Works expenditure was about 2 : 3. During that period relief was given in Gujarat on a comparatively large scale on small works under Civil Agency. From a communication of the 3rd January, 1902, received from the Commissioner, N. D., however, it appears that owing

to the rapid increase in the demand for relief, relief on large works will have to be more freely resorted to in the three Northern Gujarat Districts in the current season than was previously contemplated. In the circumstances the proportion between the Civil and Public Works expenditure may be fixed at 1 : 2 as in the current year's estimates. Then the budget estimate for 1902-1903 will be—

—	Rs.
Civil	15,73,334
Public Works...	31,46,666

or in round figures Rs. 16 lakhs and Rs. 32 lakhs, respectively.

17. The total assignment sanctioned by the Government of India in the current year for takavi advances was 64 lakhs of rupees. Almost the whole of this amount has been allotted to the Commissioners and no more is likely to be required in the current financial year. For next year it has been proposed in the budget estimates for provincial loans and advances to apply for the present for a grant of Rs. 45 lakhs under Class I—Loans to Agriculturists under Acts XIX of 1883 and XII of 1884. If it is found later in the year that further funds are necessary, application will be made to the Government of India at the proper time.

18. The following rough estimates have been furnished by the collectors of the collections, suspensions and remissions of land revenue of the *current revenue year* :—

Districts.	Estimated land revenue demand of the revenue year 1901-1902.	Estimated collections.	Estimated suspensions.	Estimated remissions.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ahmedabad...		Not	reported.	
Kaira...		Not	reported.	
Panch Mahals	3,20,760	93,964	2,26,596	200
Broach	21,50,000	14,35,000	4,65,000	2,50,000
Surat...	22,76,559	18,54,312	4,22,247	—
Thana	13,18,500	13,03,500	5,000	10,000
Khandesh	41,15,000	39,15,000	1,20,000	80,000
Nasik*	20,30,000	16,00,000	4,00,000	30,000
Ahmednagar	16,36,000	6,06,000	10,30,000	—
Poona	13,18,800	9,46,300	3,03,800	68,700
Sholapur	11,16,535	8,19,097	2,10,938	86,500
Satara	19,46,000	16,56,500	2,71,000	18,500
Bijapur	14,05,700	5,72,000	7,80,200	53,500
Belgaum	15,72,356	14,47,856	1,09,000	15,500
Dharwar	24,87,300	24,57,300	30,000	—
Kolaba	12,67,600	12,67,600	—	—
Ratnagiri	9,00,309	8,94,927	5,200	182
Kanara	9,90,950	9,87,700	2,550	700
Total	2,68,52,369	2,18,57,056	43,81,531	6,13,782

* The figures for Nasik include arrears on account of former years.

As another unfavourable season has occurred, both suspensions and remissions will have to be made on a large scale. In view of the instructions contained in the letter from the Government of India in the Legislative Department, No. 1,184, dated 2nd August, 1901, there will be collected little or none of the arrears of previous years. The collection of about 64 lakhs of rupees out of the revenue for 1899-1900 and 1900-1901 has been suspended during those two years, and it is probable that after so long a series of bad years it will be necessary or at least desirable to convert the whole or a large part of the suspensions into remissions. Some arrears also will be wiped off if advantage is taken of the Land Revenue Code Amendment Act. As regards the revenue of the current year it has been directed that in Gujarat suspensions should be granted in accordance with the scale suggested in paragraph 271 of the recent report of the Famine Commission, and that elsewhere in view of the losses which have been incurred in past years, collections from *bonâ fide* agriculturists should be liberally suspended in cases in which not more than an eight-anna crop has been reaped. The collectors have, of course, power to postpone all collections until any inquiries which may be necessary are made. According to the rough estimates of the collectors in the Presidency proper (including Ahmedabad and Kaira, for which figures have not been reported) given in the above table the collections out of the land revenue of the current revenue year are not likely to exceed 236 lakhs of rupees, and with the estimated collections in Sind, Bombay, Baroda and Kathiawar (amounting in all to 94 lakhs) will amount to 330 lakhs of rupees. Taking these circumstances into consideration the Governor in Council has fixed next year's Budget Estimate under "I—Land Revenue—Ordinary Revenue" at 340 lakhs of rupees.

No. 83.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 290—18–2, *dated Calcutta, the 7th February,* 1902.

I am directed to communicate the following observations on your letter No. 133, dated 17th January, 1902, in which you report upon the present agricultural situation in the Bombay Presidency, and upon the extent to which measures of famine relief appear likely to be required during the coming year.

2. The Government of India were aware that the autumn harvest was exceedingly poor in Gujarat, that the area sown with spring crops was very much short of the normal, and that, having regard to these circumstances and to the impoverished condition of the people, it was probable that a very considerable expenditure on famine relief would be needed in this tract of country. But they did not realize that the situation was so grave as it is now reported to be, nor did they expect to learn that relief measures on a considerable scale would be required in the districts of the Deccan, which were favoured above most other parts of India by receiving timely rain in October. The Governor-General in Council rscognizes, however, that the information which is now available is more definite and complete than that which it has been possible to furnish earlier in the season, and that the effect of the October rainfall was prejudiced by irregularity in its distribution. But he finds it difficult, on the basis of past experience, to reconcile the present apprehensions with the moderate pitch of the rates at which grain is now procurable. Prices are, it is to be observed, generally much lower than those which have been ruling in adjoining provinces during the past twelve months. So far as the Government of India are aware, the existence of famine has never previously been recognized with prices at the level they now hold in Bombay. Nor would it appear that the grain market can be materially influenced by the prospect of importation from neighbouring provinces, in which the outturn of the autumn harvest has generally been unsatisfactory. The Government of India fully admits that prices, taken alone, may not give a satisfactory clue to the position of the poorer classes. Low-

prices may be of little benefit to those who have no means of earning wages. But prices have hitherto been taken as one of the principal indications of the pressure which results from failure of crops, and past experiences have generally shown that they actively respond to unusual deficiences in the local food supply, and, moreover, that the acuteness of distress depends very materially upon their pitch. In these circumstances the Government of India cannot feel altogether certain that the view which is taken of the present situation by the Bombay Government may not be over gloomy. Nor is the information which is given as to the actual state of affairs sufficiently definite to altogether counteract the impression which a consideration of existing prices is calculated to convey. It is difficult to combine the facts which are stated in the local officers' reports so as to obtain a general idea of the situation, and I am to ask that the Government of India may be furnished as soon as convenient with an estimate, for each district as a whole, of the percentage by which the autumn produce fell short of the normal, calculated by comparing the area and average outturn, multiplied together, with similar figures for a normal year, and with a similar estimate for the spring crop now on the ground.

3. It may be urged that the best possible proof of the existence of distress is the eagerness which the people are displaying to obtain relief. But experience has shown that willingness to accept State charity is not a trustworthy sign of destitution in the case of a population which has become accustomed to rely upon Government for its support, unless it is proof against tests of a more searching character than are always applied. The work test is often uncertain, and it is not quite clear that under the system of management which is adopted in Bombay it has always succeeded in excluding from the receipt of relief those who do not deserve it. The Government of India are aware of the risk of drawing deductions from circumstances with which they are imperfectly acquainted. But they have observed that the cost of famine work has in some cases been so high as to lead to a presumption that the workers were not under the control which is desirable, and they do not feel persuaded that in the districts of the Deccan the relief workers did not remain in famine employ longer than was really necessary. It is, moreover, impossible not to contrast the rapidity with which numbers are rising in Gujarat with their slow advance in Rajputana, notwithstanding a much higher range of prices in the latter tract of country, and, so far as appears, at least an equal deficiency in the past season's outturn. Recent correspondence connected with the recommendations of the Famine Commission has illustrated very strongly the divergences which exist between the famine relief procedure of different provinces,—an expedient which has practically succeeded under one Government being not unfrequently condemned by another as impracticable, although local conditions do not apparently afford any reason for such discrepant conclusions. An instance to which reference may be made is the reluctance displayed by Bombay officers to adopt the system of daily payment which in the provinces of Northern India has been established by the experience of the two last famines as a cardinal principle of relief works administration. The Government of India believe that Local Governments might advantageously gain a more practical acquaintance with the results of one another's experience of famine relief than they possess at present, and that an interchange of ideas might lead to useful reforms. In the present circumstances they would be glad to be in a position to institute a comparison between the systems on which relief works are managed in Bombay and in Northern India, and they have come to the conclusion that it is desirable to depute an officer whose experience would be representative of that gained in Northern India during the two last famines, to visit the relief works of the Bombay Presidency and examine such features in their organization as are peculiar to Bombay. They earnestly hope that the Government of Bombay will agree with them in the view that the exceptional features of the present situation and the financial responsibility of the Government of India for the large expenditure now anticipated furnish an adequate ground for undertaking these enquiries. The officer to whom the Governor-General in Council proposes to entrust them is Mr. B. Robertson, C.I.E., Deputy Commissioner of Jabalpur, who has served through two famines with distinction. In view of the rapidity with which relief measures are expanding, it is desirable that he should visit the works as soon as

possible, and I am to express a hope that the Government of India may receive by telegram the assent of the Governor in Council to this proposal.

4. In their letter No. 84, dated 13th January, 1902, the Government of Bombay have expressed an opinion in favour of the abolition of the minimum wage save where severe famine is widespread. I am to intimate the desire of the Governor-General in Council that, pending the result of the enquiries which it is proposed to institute, its abolition should be enforced so far as able-bodied workers are concerned, that the importance of exacting a fair task from relief workers be borne in view, and that wages be strictly calculated according to the price of the cheapest food-grain procurable.

5. I am to add that budget provision will be made for meeting expenditure on the scale anticipated in your letter.

No. 84.

Telegram from Secretary, Famine Department, Bombay, to Government of India, Calcutta, No. 364, *dated* 11*th February*, 1902.

Your letter 290 of seventh. This Government accept proposal of India to depute Mr. Robertson to visit relief works in Bombay Presidency.

No. 85.

Letter from H. S. Lawrence, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), No. 387, *dated Bombay Castle*, 14*th February*, 1902.

With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter No. 290—18-2 of the 7th instant, I am directed to confirm the intimation conveyed in my telegram No. 364, dated the 11th instant, that the Governor in Council assents to the proposed deputation of Mr. B. Robertson, C.I.E., to visit the relief works in this Presidency and examine such features in their organisation as are peculiar to Bombay.

2. I am to state that orders have been issued for the preparation of the estimate called for in paragraph 2 of your letter, and that the information will be furnished as soon as it is ready. In anticipation of the detailed report, however, I am to invite the attention of the Government of India to the enormous loss of crops in Gujarat from the plague of rats, of which no mention is made in your letter under reply. I am to subjoin for your information the following extracts from reports by the Collectors of the Panch Mahals and Kaira Districts on the progress of relief measures :—

Extract from a report by the Collector of the Panch Mahals.

The damage done by the short rainfall was enormously increased by the plague of rats. Great efforts were made to get rid of these and many thousands were killed. For a time it seemed as if these efforts were being successful, but the apparent decrease was probably due to the rats leaving the crops temporarily for the wild rice. With the destruction of the latter, of which there was little this year, they returned to the crops, and in many cases ensued scarcity where want would not have otherwise been felt. Every crop, including cotton and oilseed, seems to come alike to them, and it was not possible for the cultivators to cope with their constantly increasing numbers. It is to be hoped that these numbers will lead to their dying from starvation in the hot weather. Locusts scarcely visited the district, but a species of grasshopper did considerable damage.

Extract from a report by the Collector of Kaira.

The locusts first appeared in the Mehmadabad Táluk from the Ahmedabad side, staying in the villages where they had settled for the whole night and devouring the promising bájri and bávto crops which had not been reaped. The estimated yield of several of the crops was, therefore, lowered, and towards this result rats contributed in a much greater degree than locusts. In fact, but for rats Thásra would have had fair crops, and there would have been no talk even of relief measures in Borsad, Ánand, and Nadiád.

In Gujarat, as a whole, the damage caused by rats has converted what would have been moderate scarcity into intense distress.

3. I am to add with reference to paragraph 4 of your letter that the abolition of the minimum wage so far as able-bodied workers are concerned, has been enforced in every district since September last, and that the importance of exacting a fair task from relief workers has never ceased to be inculcated. Moreover, the rest-day wage and allowances to dependants have been withheld in any cases in which there seemed to be ground for suspicion that the works were resorted to by persons not in absolute need of relief. The rule of the Code is that wages shall be calculated on the cheapest *staple* food grain of the quality in general use, and every effort has been made to secure the observance of it. It will now be directed, as desired in your letter, that wages should be calculated strictly according to the price of the cheapest food grain procurable, but it is improbable that the effect will be materially different from that of observing the existing rule.

No. 86.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government o India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Departmen No. 351, *dated Calcutta, the* 17*th February*, 1902.

I am directed to express the satisfaction of the Governor General in Council at learning from your telegram of the 11th instant that the Government of Bombay agree to the proposed deputation of Mr. Robertson. I am to enclose a copy of the instructions which have been sent to Mr. Robertson through the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. He will inform you of the date of his arrival in Bombay, and is to ascertain in personal interview with you the wishes of the Bombay Government as to the course which his tour may most conveniently take. The Government of India would be glad could it be arranged that he should first visit the Gujarat districts. They trust the Government of Bombay will permit the Commissioners and Collectors to render him all assistance needed for the purpose of his visit.

Enclosure in No. 86.

Letter from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 352, *dated Calcutta, the* 17*th February*, 1902.

I am directed to inform you that the Government of India, considering it probable that famine relief administration in the Bombay Presidency might profit by experience gained in other provinces, have decided to depute Mr. B. Robertson, C.I.E., to visit the relief works in Gujarat and the Deccan, and to ascertain how far, in his opinion, their management secures the object in view of admitting to relief all who need assistance, but of excluding those who do not require Government support. Mr. Robertson might at the same time advantageously contrast the system of gratuitous relief which has been

adopted in Bombay with that which was practised in the Central Provinces. And the Government of India would further be glad if he would use the experience he has acquired of famine conditions to form a judgment of the present outlook in the various districts which he visits. So far as now appears, Mr. Robertson's tour of inspection should not occupy him for more than eight or 10 weeks. It has been already ascertained by telegram that you will be able to spare his services for this period.

2. I am to ask that arrangements may be made to enable Mr. Robertson to start for Bombay as soon as possible after the receipt of this letter. The districts which he should visit are Panch Mahals, Ahmedabad, Kaira, Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Khandesh, in the order named, if possible, but Mr. Robertson should arrange his programme in communication with the Secretary to the Bombay Government in the Famine Department, on whom he should call on his arrival in Bombay and before he leaves the Presidency. He will, of course, make the fullest possible use of opportunities for personal communication with the divisional and district officers. The object of his deputation is that he should assist as well as criticise, and he will appreciate the importance of meeting local opinions in a conciliatory spirit. During the period of his deputation he will be under the orders of the Government of India, and I am to ask that he would submit a brief weekly report.

3. During the period of his deputation Mr. Robertson will draw pay at R2,360. He will be allowed travelling allowance under the rules, the rate of daily allowance being R10. He is authorised to convey two horses by rail at Government expense, as well as any necessary camp equipage. Should tents be required in any district, he will, no doubt, be able to secure them on loan from the local authorities.

4. A copy of these orders should be given to Mr. Robertson. He should be instructed to report by telegram the date of his departure for Bombay.

PUNJAB.

EXTRACTS FROM DISTRICT MONTHLY REPORTS.

No. 87.

REMARKS FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING 28TH APRIL, 1900.

HISSAR.

Sowings.—Nothing was sown on dry land for want of rain.

Condition of crop.—Canal rabi crop harvested, and the outturn was of an average character.

Fodder.—Very scarce in unirrigated villages.

Condition of cattle.—Cattle out of condition in dry tracts.

Water-supply.—Many of the village tanks have got water-supply by the recent rainfall sufficient for one or one-and-a-half months' requirements, but many of them are still waterless.

Grain stock.—There are no grain stocks. Food stuffs are imported in sufficient quantities to meet local requirements.

Condition of the people.—As bad as before.

Number of persons relieved.—The total number of persons receiving relief in this district during the last week of the month as compared with the same week of March represents a decrease of 4,603, which is chiefly due to the harvesting season of canal crops and the outbreak of cholera. Increase is expected again in May and June, which are the severest months of famine.

Health of the district.—Bad. Cholera and fever prevalent. Cholera is subsiding now, but it has spread in many villages of all the tahsils of the district.

ROHTAK.

Fodder.—Very scarce still. Cattle are either fed on straw or on leaves of trees.

Bhusa is being taken out.

Condition of cattle.—The condition of cattle is very bad. Rinderpest prevailed in a mild form in two villages of Sampla and one of the Jhajjar Tahsils.

Relief works.—The number of relief works in progress under the Public Works Department is six, or the same as last month. The daily average of workers and dependants was—

——	No.
Relief workers	25,206
Dependants	2,782

as compared with 29,137 and 1,228, respectively, for the last month.

The piece-work system is still in force, under which the wages are paid according to the work done.

Physical condition of people.—Generally good. Fever and small-pox prevailed throughout the district.

Sporadic cholera has broken out in a few villages of Tahsil Rohtak, and also on relief works at Pir Baha-ud-din and Bhapraudah.

GURGAON.

Relief works.—All the test works were converted into relief works during the month. The number of works now in progress is six. The number of persons attending has again gone up. The total average number of persons on works during the last week of the month was 14,133 :—

——	No.
Relief workers	11,667
Paid dependants	1,863
Unpaid dependants	603

Physical condition of workers.—The people were all healthy on the works. There was no sickness of any severe type prevalent, and people were treated for only ordinary complaints at the camp hospitals.

Condition of cattle, fodder and crops.—A few showers of rain accompanied with hail were received during the month, and the most which was recorded was 1·57 inches at Farrukhnagar and 1·12 inches at Gurgaon. Rabi has been harvested, and extra rabi is being tended. Sowings of chari and china are going on in the Rewari Tahsil on sweet wells. Cattle are out of condition for want of fodder, which is scarce everywhere, though the present harvest has furnished some.

DELHI.

Private relief and village relief have not yet been started, as there is no actual famine area in the district. There was one poor-house at Badarpur during the month in which indigent and infirm persons who are unable to work are relieved. The people so relieved are for the most part wanderers from Native States, &c. Arrangements are being made to transfer them to their own residences.

Earthwork on the Delhi-Agra Chord Railway line continues in the shape of relief work. The workers are also mostly wanderers from Native States, &c., and those transferred from the Rohtak District : only a few of the workers belong to this district.

The physical condition of the workers is good, and no deaths from starvation have yet been reported. Cholera had broken out on the work and lasted for about a fortnight in the month under report, and about 40 deaths were reported from the epidemic. It has now completely disappeared.

Food-grain stocks are sufficient for the present. The imports are higher than exports, and prices are almost stationary.

Stocks of fodder are almost exhausted, and cattle are in a weak state. The rabi fodder is quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the zamindars.

The unirrigated area has completely failed. Rabi crops on irrigated area have been reaped and promise only an average outturn. The rain in the beginning of the month was followed by hail, which did damage to the rabi crop. No part of the district is at present affected by famine.

Work is done on the piece-work system and the labourers are paid according to the quantity of work performed.

KARNAL.

Gratuitous relief was given to 1,438 persons daily in villages in the Kaithal and Thanesar Tahsils from District Funds and to 212 persons in Kaithal Town from Municipal Funds.

There is no need of a poor-house yet.

At present three large (village) works are in progress, *viz.*, tanks at Padla, Chhatar and Dasirpur, which afforded relief to 8,881 souls daily, including non-working children and dependants during the month. The fourth work, "Excavation of Kurukshetra Tank," was stopped, as the number of workers thereon had considerably fallen. Kitchens for children and dependants have been started at Padla and Chhatar tanks, which have been working very satisfactorily. A kitchen on the third work will also be started soon.

The physical condition of the people is good.

Food stocks have been exhausted, but the rabi harvest is being reaped. During the month 10,852 maunds of grain were imported. Grain can be easily obtained in all the larger villages of the district. Fodder is scarce. None can be had in Kaithal Tahsil.

MOOLTAN.

In Mooltan itself there is no famine. There is an influx of Bikaneris and people from Jhelum District. Private relief is as usual; no village and poor-house relief is given. Earthwork in filling in the city ditch is the only kind of work carried out. Physical condition of the people of Mooltan good. Food stocks are ample. Importation of grain is abnormal, but less than in previous years.

LAHORE.

The work at the Annhi Nullah has now been declared a Relief Work. The arrival of officials from the Bikaner State to take back the Bikanari's to that State is awaited. No sickness of any kind, nor deaths in the area affected. Food stocks seem sufficient.

SHAHPUR.

The distress in this district is almost entirely agricultural. Wheat now standing at 14 seers. Persons in receipt of wages are not seriously affected.

About 5,000 Hissaris are now on the canal. Something like 1,500 appear to have left, probably having saved enough to carry them to Hissar. Local famine labourers have shrunk from 2,000 to 1,300, the balance finding employment in the harvest; but they and more also will almost certainly return. These are the kamins (menials) of the villages, who being paid by customary dues in kind, are hard pressed.

Nearly 50 per cent. of the cattle have died, quite that in the Salt Range, and little can be done until rain brings fodder.

There is no sickness, but the prolonged scarcity is being felt by zamindars, who are too proud to work on the canal. They are getting somewhat demoralised and are applying for gratuitous relief.

No. 88.

Remarks for the Four Weeks ending 26th May, 1900.

Hissar.

Fodder.—Fodder available in canal villages, but it is very scarce in dry tracts. The recent rain has produced a certain amount of grass in some unirrigated villages.

Cattle.—Cattle out of condition in dry tracts.

Grain stock.—There are no grain stocks, but food stuff in sufficient quantities is imported from out-stations to meet the requirements of this district.

Water supply.—Water supply sufficient for a few weeks in dry villages where tanks were filled by the recent rainfall. In other dry villages wells are resorted to.

Number of persons relieved.—The total number of persons receiving relief by various forms at the end of May amounted to 98,318, or 11,013 less than last week of April. There are several reasons at work—heat, hard work, canal, harvest and jungle fruits.

Famine relief work programme.—There are sufficient works, mostly consisting of large agricultural tanks, to meet all requirements throughout the famine.

Rohtak.

Fodder.—Fodder is still very scarce ; straw of rabi crop only is procurable at a high price.

Condition of cattle.—Cattle are in a miserable condition and have become weak, having been fed on *bhusa* and leaves of trees. No sickness among the cattle at the end of the month.

Food stock.—Rabi produce of the district is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the district. Importations from North-Western Provinces make up the deficiency. The price of grain has again risen.

Physical condition of people.—Generally good, but fever and small-pox are still prevailing in the district. Cholera also prevails in some villages of Tahsils Rohtak, Sampla, and Jhajjar.

Gurgaon.

Relief works.—Six works are in progress. The total number of persons on works on the last day of the last week of the month was :—

—-	No.
Relief workers	13,402
Paid dependants	2,024
Unpaid dependants	451

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the people was good on all the works, and the heat and task do not seem to have affected them. There was no sickness of any severe type prevalent, and at camp hospitals people were treated only for ordinary complaints.

Food stocks.—The imports by rail have been 39,112 maunds, against 16,748 in the corresponding month last year.

Condition of cattle, fodder, and crops.—A few showers of rain (accompanied with hail in some places) were received during the month, and the most which was recorded in one day was ·93 inch at Hathin and 1·35 at Palwal. Sowings of cotton are in progress in Palwal on irrigated areas. Recent rains have caused bajra sowings to be made in the Gurgaon Tahsil, and ploughings everywhere. Extra rabi is in average condition, and outturn is expected to be average. Indigo and sugarcane crops are in fair condition. Cattle are lean and weak except in Palwal, and fodder is scarce in all the tahsils except Palwal.

Changes in rates of wages.—No change. The unlimited piece-work system on the Ghata and Raisina Bunds is attractive to the people. The Ghata Bund will be completed in two to three weeks, when it is proposed to start work on the Alipur-Ghamranj Bund.

Mortality.—No deaths from starvation have been reported. The death rate in municipal towns and rural circles was high during the month on account of small-pox, which is dying out.

Programme.—The programme provides sufficient village works and public works to meet all requirements throughout the district.

Delhi.

No private relief and village relief in the district yet, as there is no actual famine area in the district. One poor-house at Badarpur, in which indigent and infirm persons who are unable to work are relieved. The average number of persons so relieved have decreased now, owing to the transfer of a number of persons to their own States.

Earthwork on the Delhi-Agra-Chord Railway continues in the shape of relief work. The average number of these workers have decreased to a great extent, partly owing to the transfer of immigrants and partly to the desertion of persons on hearing of their going back to their States.

Physical condition of the workers is at present good, and no deaths from starvation have yet been reported.

Food-grain stocks are sufficient for the present, but the prices are increasing owing to abnormal exports.

Stocks of fodder are almost exhausted, and cattle are in a weak state.

The rabi crop has been harvested. Outturn on irrigated area average, and on unirrigated area is poor. Kharif ploughings have begun in parts of the district.

Work is done on the piece-work system, and the labourers are paid according to the quantity of work performed.

Karnal.

Relief works.—Three large village works are in progress in the most affected parts of the Kaithal Tahsil, which afforded relief to 7,118 persons daily.

There are also three kitchens (one at each work), where 1,742 non-working children and dependants are fed daily.

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works as well as of the children at the kitchens and of the neighbouring population is good. Cholera has broken out in a few villages in the Kaithal Tahsil. Fever, cold, and sore-eyes, are also very prevalent.

LAHORE.

Most of the Bikaneris have been taken back to Bikaner by the State officials. The poor-house and hospital at Shahdera are being closed, and the Executive Engineer, Lahore, has been asked whether the Annhi Nala Relief Work can be closed, since it will not be possible to go on with it as an ordinary work.

No sickness of any kind, nor any abnormal mortality in the area affected. Food stocks seem sufficient.

SHAHPUR.

Private relief still given, no village relief, and poor-house only for friendless dependants amongst the Hissaris.

Test works still on the Jhelum Canal, but numbers of workers decreasing and likely to still further decrease, as contract work is opened up.

The famine work for Hissaris will be closed during the next fortnight, as they are to return to Hissar.

The physical condition of the people is still good.

Food stocks are adequate; importation continues.

No. 89.

REMARKS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1900.

HISSAR.

Fodder.—Fodder very scarce in dry tracts.

Cattle.—Cattle out of condition in dry tracts and dying for want of fodder.

Grain stock.—There are no grain stocks. Food-grain is imported in sufficient quantities from out-stations.

Water-supply.—Water-supply sufficient in canal. It is scarce in unirrigated tracts, and wells are resorted to where tanks are waterless.

Death from starvation.—None.

Health of the district.—Very bad. Cholera and fever prevalent.

ROHTAK.

Condition of crops.—The condition of irrigated standing crops is good.

Fodder.—Still very scarce.

Condition of cattle.—The same as reported before. No sickness among the cattle. Cattle are dying of starvation in the Jhajjar Tahsil for want of sufficient fodder.

Food stocks.—Not sufficient to meet the requirements of the district; importation from North-West Provinces makes up the deficiency.

Relief works.—Two village works in the Jhajjar Tahsil and one in town Rohtak have been opened this month. The total number of relief works now in progress in the district is therefore nine, or three more than during May.

The total average number of persons on the last day of the last week was—

——	No.
Relief workers	29,746
Dependants	3,026

as compared with 23,241 and 2,173 respectively for last month, thus showing an increase of 6,505 in the number of relief workers, and of 853 in that of dependants. This is due to the lateness of the rains.

Physical condition.—Good. The people show but few signs of physical deterioration. Fever and cholera are still prevalent in the district.

GURGAON.

General character of relief works.—The number of works in progress is six. The total daily average number of persons on works on the last week of the month was—

——	No.
Relief workers	11,923
Paid dependants	2,028
Unpaid dependants	255
Total	14,206

Physical condition of people.—The physical condition of the people was good on all the works. There were 49 cases of cholera at Raesina Bund, but through the exertions of Mr. Charters, Civil Surgeon, and Mr. D. McGregor, Sub-Divisional Officer, the disease has been stamped out. There was no sickness of any severe type on any of the other works, and at camp hospitals people are treated only for ordinary complaints.

The health of the district may be considered as fair. A number of villages were attacked with cholera, but the disease appears to be dying out.

Food stocks.—Except in canal villages there are no stocks of fodder and grain.

Condition of cattle, fodder and crops.—There have been slight showers of rain in some parts of the district. The villagers are ploughing and sowing where rain has fallen. A number of villages which took advantage of the first rain in Rewari and ploughed and sowed have lost their young crops, which have been buried by sand in heavy dust storms. Cattle are in poor condition except in Palwall, in which tahsil alone fodder is not scarce.

Changes in rates of wages.—No change. The Ghata Bund will be completed shortly. Most of the labourers have been transferred to Raesina. The numbers have run down so much on Raesina that it is not considered advisable to start the Alipur Ghamrauj Bund at present.

Mortality.—No deaths from starvation have been reported. The death-rate in municipal towns and rural circles was high during the month on account of small-pox and cholera, which are dying out.

Programme of relief works.—The programme provides sufficient village works and public works to meet all requirements throughout the district.

KARNAL.

Relief works.—The three large village works in the Kaithal Tahsil, where famine is very acute, are still in progress, and afforded relief to 8,163 persons daily.

There are also three kitchens (one at each work), where 1,854 non-working children and dependants were daily fed.

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works as well as of the children at the kitchens and of the neighbouring population is good. Cholera has broken out in many villages in the Kaithal Tahsil and also at Padla relief work.

Food stocks.—The grain stock is sufficient for the present. During the month 10,817 maunds of grain have been imported. Fodder is very scarce; none can be had in Kaithal Tahsil.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There has been no improvement since the submission of the last report. The slight rain that fell during the month was of no use.

No. 90.

REMARKS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 1900.

HISSAR.

Rainfall.—Rains set in in the middle of July, but ceased after one partial fall, and, owing to strong western winds which set in immediately after, sowings were stopped. The rains set in again, however, at the end of the month and gave good rain throughout the district except in the Sirsa Tahsil, where only partial showers were received and sowings recommenced.

Sowings and condition of crops.—Sowings are in progress in all unirrigated tracts. Good floods have been received in the Ghaggar and Rangoi streams, and sowings in tracts subject to river inundation are busily being made. Sowings on canal land are also going on, but coming to an end. Bajra on canal lands is nearly ripe, whereas bajra on lands dependent on rainfall is in many places not yet sown.

Condition of crops.—Condition of canal-irrigated tracts good.

Fodder.—There is no stock of fodder, which has been selling in places at 20 seers for the rupee, but green grass is springing up and there will be abundant fodder for cattle very soon.

Cattle.—So far the cattle have been out of condition, but they will improve speedily when sufficient grass grows to feed them.

Condition of the people.—Taccavi is being distributed, and the zamindars are making speedy arrangements to resume their agricultural pursuits. The recent rainfall has brightened the agricultural prospects of the district and revived the broken spirit of the people.

Number of persons relieved.—The total number of persons in receipt of relief in various forms at the end of July amounted to 106,515, or 3,552 more than last month, which is due to the break in the rains and strong western winds.

Famine Relief Works Programme.—There are sufficient works on the famine programme to meet all requirements during the current famine. Agriculturists are leaving the works, and by the end of August or so it is expected the relief camps will be able to be closed if no unfavourable changes take place before then. Gratuitous relief operations will have to be continued till the middle of October probably, owing to the lateness of the rains.

ROHTAK.

Condition of crops.—The condition of irrigated standing crops is good, but barani crops are beginning to dry up where no rain has fallen.

Fodder.—Fodder is still very scarce owing to failure of rain.

Condition of cattle.—The condition of cattle is the same as reported before. No sickness among the cattle. Cattle are dying for want of fodder.

Village relief.—The daily average number of recipients for the last week was 6,030 against 5,441 relieved last month, and the total expenditure for the month was Rs. 7,048-1-0 as compared with Rs. 8,815-7-0 for June, 1900.

The increase in the number of recipients is due to failure of rain.

Relief works.—Six more village works, *i.e.*, five in the Jhajjar and one in the Rohtak Taksil, were opened during the month. Thus the number of relief works in progress during July was 15, of which 3 have been completed.

The average number of persons for the last week was—

——	No.
Relief workers	33,158
Dependants	3,516

as compared with 29,746 and 3,026 respectively for the preceding month, showing an increase of 3,412 in the number of relief workers and 490 in that of dependants.

Physical condition.—The physical condition is good. Cholera is decreasing.

GURGAON.

General character of relief works.—The number of works in the beginning of the month was six, but the Ghata Bund has been completed with the exception of the masonry sluices which are in progress. The work of the Delhi-Agra Chord Railway in this district has been completed and the Camp has been transferred to the Delhi District. On the close of the Ghata Bund the people were drafted to Raesina Bund, but owing to the outbreak of cholera the Ghata people had to be separated and put on to the Alipur Ghamranj Bund. The work on the Rewari-Phulera Railway at Chandpura and Tobra Camps has been completed, and only dressing of a portion of embankments remains to be done. The British subjects from Chandpura Camp have been drafted on to Khol Bund. Thus the number of works at the close of the month was five.

The total daily average number of persons on works in the last week of the month was—

——	No.
Relief workers	11,139
Dependants	2,661
Total	13,800

Physical condition of the people.—The physical condition of the people was fair on all the works with the exception of that of a few State people who have

returned to the Raesina Bund and who are in an emaciated condition. Unfortunately cholera re-appeared at Raesina, and the camp had to be broken up into units, and the Ghata people amongst whom the disease re-appeared had to be separated from the Raesina people and put on the Alipur Ghamranj Bund. There were a few cases of cholera in the Jatusana Camp, but the disease has disappeared from both the camps. There was no sickness of a severe nature in any of the camps. The ordinary cases of fever, &c., were treated in the camp hospitals.

The health of the district is fairly good. There is cholera still in a few villages of the district, but it is of a mild form, and is gradually disappearing as preventive measures are taken for purification of wells in villages in which cholera has appeared.

Food stocks.—Except in canal villages there were no stocks of fodder and grain.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There have been very fair showers of rain in different parts of the district, and ploughing and sowing are progressing. Where there has not been rain the pinch of scarcity is being keenly felt.

DELHI.

Workers from the Gurgaon District arrived in this district during the month, and resumed the earth-work on the Delhi-Agra Chord Railway, which has been almost completed. Stone-breaking work at Badarpur will be taken in hand. Workers have a tendency to leave the work now, and their average on this account is decreasing day by day.

The physical condition of the workers was fair during the month, though there were some deaths from cholera, but it has now quite disappeared.

Food grain stocks are sufficient for the present, but prices are rising owing to heavy exports.

Stocks of fodder are exhausted and cattle are in a weak state.

Kharif sowings are in progress: prospects are fair for the present.

Labourers are paid according to the quantity of the work performed.

KARNAL.

Out of the sum received from the Provincial Famine Committee, Rs. 70,000 have been advanced to officers for distribution as gifts to cultivators, &c., in the Kaithal Tahsil for the purchase of seed and cattle. Nearly Rs. 2,00,000 have been distributed as Government Taccavi and in gifts from charitable Relief Funds during the month.

Village relief.—Gratuitous relief in villages, &c., was also given to 1,697 persons daily during the month in the Kaithal Tahsil from District Funds and to 247 from Municipal Funds. The total amount thus given on village relief amounted to Rs. 2,737-3-1.

Poor-house.—No poor-house has been opened, nor is there any need to open one now.

Relief works.—There were three large village works in progress in the Kaithal Tahsil during the month, which afforded relief to 9,199 persons daily. One of these works has been closed during the month, owing to the considerable fall in the number of workers and to the place having been filled up by flood water. A daily average number of 1,836 non-working children and dependants were also fed at the three kitchens at works during the month.

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works as well as of the children at the kitchens and of the neighbouring population is good. Cholera is still prevalent at some of the villages in the Kaithal Tahsil, but at the relief works it has practically died out.

No. 91.

Remarks for the Month of August, 1900.

Delhi.

Relief works were closed at the end of July.

Hissar.

Rainfall.—Sufficient rain fell throughout the district in August, and heavy floods were received in the Ghaggar stream.

Sowings.—Sowings were immediately undertaken and completed by the end of August.

Condition of crops.—Prospects of crops both on unirrigated and irrigated land good up to this time. A good harvest on dry land is expected if sufficient rain falls in September.

Bajra is being reaped on canal land.

Fodder.—Dry fodder scarce, but green grass is available in all parts of the districts.

Condition of cattle.—Cattle improving.

Condition of the people.—Zamindars have received taccavi to the extent of about Rs. 14,65,000 both from Government and charitable funds and are busy with their agricultural pursuits. Field labour is available in villages, and zamindars are anxious to have their menials back for field work. All tank works have been closed with effect from 31st August. Indigent people have been given a fortnight's allowance for their maintenance. Infirm dependants who have no means of support will be put on gratuitous lists and relieved till the middle of October. About 500 people in each tahsil will be employed on road repair works till 15th September.

Number of persons relieved.—The total number of persons in receipt of relief in various forms at the end of the month amounted to 48,156, out of which 24,016 were on works.

Rohtak.

Condition of crops.—The condition of both irrigated and unirrigated standing crops is very good so far. Bajra on canal lands is nearly ripe. The jowar crop needs further showers of rain.

Fodder.—Green grass is procurable for cattle everywhere except in those zails of the Jhajjar Tahsil, in which rainfall has been scanty.

Condition of cattle.—Improving; no sickness among the cattle at present.

Relief works.—The average number of persons for the last week was—

——	No.
Relief workers	24,134
Dependants	2,794

as compared with 33,158 and 3,516 respectively for the preceding month, showing a decrease of 9,024 in the number of relief workers and of 722 in that of dependants. These decreases were due to good rain.

The number of works in progress during August was 12 as detailed below :—

——	No.
Large relief works	6
Village works	6

Orders have been given for all the relief works to be closed from 1st September, 1900.

Physical condition.—Good. Cholera is still prevailing in a few villages of Tahsils Gohana and Rohtak and epidemic fever in Tahsil Gohana.

GURGAON.

The number of works in the beginning of the month was five, but the works on the Rewari-Phulera Railway have been closed on completion. The Khol Bund has been started during the month. Thus the number of works in progress at the close of the month was four.

The total daily average number of persons on works during the last week of the month was—

——	No.
Relief workers	5,572
Dependants	1,882
Total	7,454

Physical condition of people.—The physical condition of the people was fair on all the works. Cholera was stamped out at Raesina, but unfortunately it reappeared in a mild form. It has disappeared now.

There was no sickness of a severe nature in any of the camps. Ordinary cases were treated in the camp hospitals.

The health of the district is good with the exception of a few villages in the Ferozepore Tahsil and Rewari town, in which cholera still exists. Measures are being taken to stamp out the disease.

Food stocks.—Except in canal villages there were no stocks of fodder and grain.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There have been very fair showers throughout the district, and advantage has been taken of them, as well as of the taccavi advances to bring as much land under cultivation as possible. Rupees 1,62,268–9–4 have been distributed in taccavi up to the week ending 18th August, 1900.

The cattle are now improving as green grass is available everywhere, and the fodder scarcity has diminished.

KARNAL.

Out of the sums advanced to the Famine Charitable Relief Sub-Committees Rs. 914–10–4 were distributed during the month on the relief of 1,151 respectable poor persons and pardanashins. As shown above, 13

destitute persons in Ladwa town were given free gifts from the Charitabel Fund for the reconstruction of their houses which were washed away by the floods. About Rs. 17,900 more have been distributed as Government taccavi and in gifts from Charitable Relief Funds for the purchase of seed and cattle during the month.

Village relief.—Gratuitous relief in villages was also given to 1,800 persons daily during the month in Kaithal and Thanesar Tahsils from District Funds, and 254 persons from Municipal Funds. The total sum given on gratuitous relief amounted to Rs. 3,051.

Poor-house.—No poor-house has been opened.

Relief works.—Two large relief works were in progress in the Kaithal Tahsil during the month, which afforded relief to 5,304 persons daily up to the third week in August, 1900, when both these works had to be closed, as the number of workers had decreased greatly owing to the good fall of rain.

The Patiala subjects working on the Chhatar tank have been sent away to their State under an official who came for the purpose. One thousand and two hundred non-working children and dependants were also fed at the three kitchens. The Dasirpur kitchen was closed on the 11th, and the others at Chhatar and Padla tanks were closed on 18th August, 1900.

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works, as well as of the children at the kitchens and of the neighbouring population, was good.

Cholera is prevalent in Karnal, Panipat and Kaithal Towns, also in some villages in the Karnal, Panipat and Kaithal Tahsils.

Food stock.—Food grain stock is sufficient: 23,271 maunds of grain have been imported during the month.

Fodder is abundant, and cattle are much improved in condition.

No. 92.

REMARKS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1900.

HISSAR.

Rainfall.—There has been copious rainfall during the month, and the agricultural prospects have brightened in all parts of the district.

Sowings.—Kharif sowings completed and rabi ploughings commenced.

Condition of crops.—The standing crops both on irrigated and unirrigated lands are in a flourishing condition. Bajra is being reaped on irrigated tracts. Cotton and chilly crops have been damaged to some extent by the heavy rainfall. In certain Sailaba villages the rice cultivation has been affected by the excessive and repeated floods of the Ghaggar stream, but good rabi harvest is expected in such villages.

Fodder.—Green grass is plentiful in all parts of the district.

Condition of cattle.—Cattle greatly improved.

Grain stock.—Food grain imported from other parts of the country is sufficient to meet all local requirements. The circumstances have, however, now changed, and the surplus quantity of grain imported is being exported to other places for sale.

Water-supply.—Water-supply is abundant both in irrigated and unirrigated tracts.

Prices.—The prices of food grains are falling owing to the good prospects of the kharif harvest.

Condition of the people.—The condition of the people is now improving. Zamindars are hopeful and busy with their agricultural pursuits. There is ample field labour available for kamins, and spontaneous herbs, which form a part of the food of the poorer classes of the country, have grown plentifully in all parts of the district.

Famine relief operations.—As the people can now earn their livelihood without Government aid, the famine relief operations of all kinds have been closed with effect from 30th September, and a fortnight's allowance given to those who were in need of help.

ROHTAK.

Condition of crops.—The condition of the standing crops is very good.

Fodder.—The fodder supply is ample.

Condition of cattle.—The condition of the cattle is very good. There was no sickness among the cattle.

Food stock.—The food stocks are exhausted, but there was importation from North-West Provinces.

Relief works.—Only one village work, that is Samdasar tank, was in progress up to 7th September, 1900, when it was also closed. The average number of workers for the week ending 8th September was :—

——	No.
Relief workers	1,074
Dependants	15

Physical condition.—The physical condition of the people was generally good. Epidemic fever is prevalent.

GURGAON.

General character of relief works.—The number of works in the beginning of the month was four, but these were closed during the month.

The total daily average number of persons on works during the fourth week of the month was—

——	Total of Four Weeks.	Daily Average.
Relief workers	7,589	1,897
Dependants	4,008	1,002

Physical condition of the people.—The physical condition of the people on works was fair. The health of the district is generally good, with the exception of a few villages in the Nuh and Firozpur Tahsils and Rewari town, where cholera is still prevalent in a mild form. Steps are being taken to stamp it out.

Food stocks.—Except in canal villages there were no stocks of fodder and food grains.

Condition of cattle, fodder and crops.—The heavy rains during the month have damaged a part of the bajra crop. Grass is plentiful for cattle, which are in good condition. Rs. 2,46,334-9-4 have been distributed as taccavi up to the 29th September, 1900.

KARNAL.

Out of the sums advanced for the distribution of Famine Charitable Relief Rs. 741 were distributed during the month on the relief of 963 respectable poor and *pardanashin.*

The total sums distributed up to date for the purchase of seed and bullocks (as free gifts from Charitable Relief Funds) amounted to Rs. 61,674. Besides this Rs. 2,000 worth of cloth was purchased and distributed to the people on different relief works and the list of gratuitous relief in villages.

Village relief.—Gratuitous relief in villages was given to 1,406 persons daily during the month, mostly in Kaithal Tahsil, and to some in the Thanesar Tahsil from District Funds, and to 270 persons from Municipal Funds in the town of Kaithal. The total sums given as gratuitous relief amounted to Rs. 2,807.

Poor-house.—No poor-houses are open in this district.

Relief works.—All the relief works were closed during August, 1900. None are in progress now.

Physical condition.—The general health of the people in the district is bad. Though cholera, which was prevalent during the previous month, has died out, fever is still raging in a very severe form.

Food stock.—The food grain stock is quite sufficient. New Indian corn and paddy have begun to come into the market. During the month under report 13,686 maunds of grain were imported into the district. Fodder is abundant, and cattle are in good condition.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—Crops are everywhere in excellent condition, except in a few villages of the Thanesar and Karnal Tahsils, where they were destroyed by flood, and in some places cotton, bajra, chari and chillies were damaged by excessive rain. Since the 28th September there has been bright sunshine, which has improved the prospects and enables gram-sowing to be vigorously pushed on.

REGULATION OF RELIEF WORKS.

No. 93.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 177, *dated the* 22*nd March*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government, a copy of my letter (circular) No. 126 of this date, which, I trust, will meet with the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 93.

Circular letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Deputy Commissioners, Rohtak, Delhi, Gurgaon and Hissar, No. 126, *dated the* 22*nd March*, 1900.

With the approach of the summer heats, which indeed are already upon us, but may be expected to diminish again for a time, I have the honour to invite

your special attention to the following points connected with our relief works, and to request your early attention to the subject in consultation with the Executive Engineer of the Division.

2. *Water and huts.*—The subjects of the supply of water and provision of huts capable of affording reasonable relief from the sun were mooted and partly discussed at our Hissar Conference three weeks back. As regards water, Superintending Engineer has ordered that four wells shall be made available for each work, and this is no doubt being seen to, and people living in the villages adjoining the work have been ordered to bring one gharra supply per family with them on to the work, and this order is no doubt being enforced. Both points should be seen to at all inspections, and it is desirable, I think, that you should be furnished with a list of the wells available for each work, and be assured that there is no risk of failure of their supply. We cannot afford to leave anything to chance in the matter of the water-supply of ten thousand people in May or June.

3. As regards the huts provided, we must make these as good protection from the sun as possible. The sirki huts constructed in some of the camps are, I am afraid, very poor affairs ; but so far as huts can be well " leeped " and pits can be dug inside them, I think we must now *oblige* the occupants to make these improvements, and if they will not do so on Sundays, they should be set to do so on a week day receiving only the minimum wage for such work. Water to enable them to make mud plaster must in any case be supplied to them. I am afraid it is impossible to get any long grass or tree branches in Hissar wherewith to make an additional thatching of the huts. but this may perhaps be possible in some districts. Farásh and pilchi cuttings make excellent huts.

4. There remains the question of shelter and shade for the people not residing in relief camps. I am afraid that in most cases there is very little of this available on the spot, though it is wonderful what shade they can contrive under jál and jand bushes by means of clothes, &c., and tattís may no doubt be properly given out to help them in this. The necessity did not arise in the famine of 1896-97, when most of the people were employed on village works, and much of what should now be done in this direction depends upon how they will prefer to work during the hot days. Will those who do not reside in the camps work from very early—say 5 a.m.—and go off to their homes at 11—12 o'clock, or will they work say from 6.30—10.30 and again from 4.30 or 5 p.m. to 7, as no doubt all the people in the camp will do. In the latter case they will need more shelter in the middle of the day—in the former case we shall probably have to reduce the tasks now demanded. This is a point upon which the opinions of leading Lambardárs, Zaildárs, &c., should be sought as well as of officials. In any case some shelter must be provided, and the best way of providing it should receive careful attention.

5. In this connection I shall be glad of your opinion whether children and other dependants should not be left in their villages instead of being brought on to the works during the great heat. The labourers on each work are changing very little now, I fancy, and for all non-residents who have been for some time on the work dependant's allowance can perhaps safely be paid according to the amounts paid in the previous two or three weeks, while as regards new-comers who are pretty certain to come from adjoining villages it can be ascertained from the Lambardárs what the number of dependants is. This idea is against the continuation of kitchens for dependants in the Gurgaon and Karnal Districts, but I am not sure we could very well keep up such kitchens during the great heats of May and June. The dependants residing in the camps need, I think, attend only the morning roll-call after 1st April, but a very careful double camp roll-call should always be taken on Sundays.

6. Finally, as to the task to be done. We must, I imagine, reduce this somewhat for the summer, and I am disposed to think that after 15th April we should reduce it by 20 per cent. This does not in any way affect the principle of fixing and demanding a full task lately laid down and enforced : the task will still be the full one which can be reasonably demanded of the workers with due regard to all conditions, and especially the conditions of heat. I am disposed to think that in view of the fact that our tanks are now becoming so deep

more relief will be needed in the task of the carriers, especially older women and carrying children, than of the diggers, and this must be carefully considered, and the opinion of the Civil Surgeon should be sought on it, as well as of Department Public Works Officers. So far I am quite satisfied with the general condition of the workers which has been maintained during nearly six months of famine, and we must be careful that it does not run down during the next four months, before they return to their ordinary agricultural avocations. It must not be understood that I consider it would be proper to raise the grain wage again in the above circumstances. That wage is, in my opinion, sufficient for the objects which it professes to attain, but we must be careful not to overtax the strength maintained by that wage, as such strength does not represent the full robust vitality of a labouring population at its best.

7. Should small numbers still come on to our works till the end—if large numbers still come on, we must go on opening other large relief works as we may be compelled—we shall have to consider whether it will be wise to open a certain number of village works from May onwards, and I should be glad to learn your general idea as to this. I am disposed to think that we should not allow any village work to be confined to one village alone, but should in ordinary cases make all such works common to four or five villages at least. Such works would, apparently, have to be managed much as village works for which advances are taken—*see* my unofficial No. 178, of 19th March, 1900—and I should be glad of the expression of your opinion on this point also.

8. There is one aspect of village relief works connected with the action to be taken in connection with what may be called domestic relief, upon which I am addressing you to-day.

There can be no doubt, I think, that as soon at least as a second good fall of general rain assures general sowings in July we should sweep the people as far as possible off our relief works, and get them, zamindars and kamins alike, back into their villages. To do this we shall have to provide them with means of subsistence for six weeks or two months, roughly speaking, say from 20th July to 10th September. The cost of this may be taken at 2 annas per head per adult, or say Rs. 4 each for the two months, excluding children. The question here for consideration is, should we give the whole of that allowance in cash, or should we require the women and children, at least, to earn part of it by labouring on village relief works while the men work in the fields? There will be a good deal to be done in restoring the old home, even in the most favourable of circumstances; but, on the whole, I am disposed to think that we should require those who can spare the time to work on village relief works up to September, and that the cash sum given to people leaving the works for their homes should be based on this.

9. I shall be obliged if you will favour me with your opinion and the opinions of the Department Public Works Officers in your district (I enclose two spare copies of this letter for Executive Engineer, which he can circulate to his subordinates) upon paragraphs 1—6 of this letter within ten days. Executive Engineers will kindly send copy of their opinions to Superintending Engineer, to whom a copy of this is being sent.

No. 94.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, No. 628, *dated Lahore, the* 26*th April,* 1900.

With reference to your letter, No. 177 dated the 22nd March, 1900, I am directed to say that, subject to the following remarks, the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the instructions given in your circular No. 126, dated the 22nd March, 1900, regarding summer arrangements on relief works.

2. As regards paragraphs 4 and 6 of your circular, I am to forward for your information extract of a note by Colonel S. L. Jacob, Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch.

3. With reference to paragraph 5 of your circular, the Lieutenant-Governor is inclined to doubt whether it is necessary to dispense with the attendance of the dependants of those relief workers who are not resident on the works. No such measure seems to have been found necessary in Hissar or elsewhere in the last famine. There are certainly difficulties in the way of carrying out your proposal, and I am to suggest that these may be avoided if some more of the tanks are worked, as Colonel Jacob has proposed for Kaluwas, by a task work system, which includes the dependant allowance. If Colonel Jacob's proposal works well it might be extended as far as desired during the hot months. Your matured proposals in regard to dependants will be awaited.

4. As regards paragraph 7 of your circular, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor, as at present advised, is inclined to think that the large works should go on as at present all through May and part of June. That the people should be able to get back to their villages by the time that good rain falls appears to be all that is wanted, and it should be sufficient to get the people back to their villages before the rains break, but only just before. It would be better not to pay them in cash, and it would be preferable to give them work in their villages at favourable rates, and (though this is not in consonance with your proposals) to restrict the work in each village to the people of that village. Sir Mackworth Young thinks this would be less demoralising than giving cash, but work might be given at, say, double the ordinary rate, so that plenty of time may be left for the people to work in the fields. Every endeavour should be made to measure such work correctly, but, at the same time, the rates allowed should be liberal. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that payment for such work might be weekly or fortnightly, as convenient; and, if necessary, given in advance, though it is of importance that this should not be done if it can be helped.

5. Copies of this correspondence will be supplied to all the Deputy Commissioners of your Division (except Simla).

Enclosure in No. 94.

Extract of a Note by Colonel S. L. Jacob, R.E., Chief Engineer, Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, dated the 12th April, 1900, on the Commissioner, Delhi's No. 126, dated the 22nd March, 1900.

The Commissioner says the necessity for shade did not arise in the famine of 1896-97. This is not quite correct. The Ghaggar Canals and Hansi Branch cuts off were in full swing in the hot weather, and shade was very much wanted.

I am of opinion that no particular lowering of the task is required, but what is wanted is leniency during dust-storms. Dust-storms rage with great severity and frequency in May and June, and render anything like a full task on those days impossible. The nearer Bikaner the worse they are.

I should not, therefore, reduce the daily task, but I should give the normal wage whenever a dust-storm occurred of such strength or duration that a full task could not be done, and a minimum wage for no work. If a dust-storm rages the first half of the day, the workers should be encouraged to come and work for the other half. We had to do this last famine, and the work was very materially reduced in consequence. In and on the border of Bikaner it made a difference of 40 per cent., but less elsewhere. I would work this matter leniently, even though there were some abuse of the leniency, for work in the constant winds of May is most unpleasant and trying to health.

As to the latter part of paragraph 6 of Commissioner's note, I think it is important, and I am inclined to think that the local officers are not sufficiently careful about the weaker people. I should like to see more weak gangs than I have seen, and no doubt very high lifts such as will obtain in the hot weather are specially trying to all but the strong.

No. 95.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 235, *dated the* 18*th April*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 177 of 22nd March, 1900, I have the honour to forward a copy of my letter No. 167 of this date and the original correspondence* referred to in it, a list of which is annexed, and to request that printed copies of the whole may be supplied to officers as requested in my letter No. 189 of 26th March, 1900.

Enclosure in No. 95.

Circular from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to (1) *the Deputy Commissioners, Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon, and Karnal;* (2) *the Executive Engineers, Provincial Divisions, Hissar, Rohtak, Delhi, and Umballa;* (3) *the Superintending Engineer, Special Famine Circle—No.* 167, *dated Delhi, the* 18*th April*, 1900.

All the replies to my circular No. 126 of the 22nd ultimo having now been received, I have the honour to issue the following orders on the subjects noticed therein.

2. *Drinking water arrangements.*—The importance of this subject seems to be well understood. The number of wells, four, which the Superintending Engineer has directed should be made available may seem large, but it must be remembered that with an outbreak of cholera one or two of these may at any moment go out of use for a time, and that we must not be left open to the risk of hastily improvised substitutes then. I do not understand why the order that workers coming from their own villages are to bring with them one small gharra of water per family is difficult to enforce, and I observe that Captain Burlton says it is complied with in Rohtak. It is surely simple to arrange with the Lambardars of the village to see to this before the workers start in the morning, and persistent refusal to comply with the order can always be met with refusal of admission to the work. We are bound to save what cost of water arrangements we can in this way, but it must be clearly impressed on all subordinates that in no circumstances is the supply of drinking water to be allowed to run short when the great heats set in, and additional carriage arrangements must be devised as necessary to meet any greatly increased demand for water.

3. *Huts.*—I am afraid the opinions offered do not help very much. So far as cowdung is needed for leeping the huts, I can hardly believe that this cannot be arranged for if application is made to the Tahsildar of the tahsil, and probably the workers from villages would bring baskets of fresh cowdung for payment. So far as I observed in the villages the making of oplas and the storing of them in botoras was proceeding in nearly all places in spite of the

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* Not printed.

losses of cattle. With reference to Mr. Humphrey's objection that huts dug out are liable to be flooded even with light rain, and that such huts are not perhaps healthy in any case in very hot weather (they were made primarily in this form as protection from the cold), it must be very easy to change the huts to one side or other of the hole and fill that up again, at the same time making low bank walls outside the huts as suggested by Mr. Humphreys, and if necessary this can be done on a working day. If there is no shade round about, and I am afraid this is the case with many of the works, the huts, or else specially improvised shelter, must provide sufficient shelter from the direct rays of the sun; and officers will be responsible for this, and must spend on this object such sums as may be really necessary. The securing of huts against dust-storms must also be specially seen to.

4. *Shade.*—The general opinion is that the people coming on to the works from the villages should be allowed to commence work when they like in the night and morning, and this will certainly be the best plan. In that case they will require little shade, if any, but whatever is necessary for them, or for poople in the camp whose huts do not afford sufficient shade, must be provided. The Chief Engineer, whose letter was circulated with my letter No. 151 of the 7th April, is in favour of trees supplemented with bits of thatch, or of thatch shelters on poles with no sides, and the Superintending Engineer proposes frames of bamboo matting 8 by 4, and Mr. Orr thinks that shelters against the sides of the excavation pits will be best. Each officer, subject to the orders of his executive engineer, can try his own system, but it must be understood that adequate shelter from the sun's rays must be provided for all who remain on the work or in camp during the full heat of the day.

5. *Hours of work.*—There is a general consensus of opinion that the people should be allowed to work as they like, and I think there can be no doubt that this view is sound. The people from the villages will no doubt come on the works very early, and on moonlight nights will probably work all night, and the people in camp can be allowed to do the same or to divide their work into two portions in the morning and evening. It is obvious, however, that this necessary relaxation of work hours will have a considerable effect upon our present organization and may have such an effect upon the outturn of work, and it will be necessary to issue very careful orders to all Naib Tahsildars in this connection. I shall be glad to see the general orders which executive engineers may pass on the subject for the guidance of all subordinates.

All officials must, of course, be on the work before sunrise (this will be, of course, the most comfortable arrangement for them as for the workers), and all work of returns, estimates, &c., can be done in shelter during the heat of the day. Naib Tahsildars and all members of our establishment will need a good deal of working up with reference to these new arrangements, and I trust they will receive it. If desired by executive engineers, I am sure Deputy Commissioners will be glad to place at their disposal for a few days on each work the services of Tahsildars or Extra Assistant Commissioners or Assistant Commissioners to help to introduce these changes with as little dislocation of system and organization as possible. This change means, of course, that the workers must keep their tools and baskets themselves, so that they can get at them for work at any time, and with responsibility for this Government property duly impressed on mates and muharrirs I do not see that there need be much risk in this plan.

6. *Dependants.*—As regards leaving children in the villages, opinions are a good deal divided, but the general conclusion is perhaps that it would be sufficient for them to be present on the two pay days, and this plan should be tried for the present. The piece-work system would, of course, do away with this altogether, but the Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak is disposed to think that the children of the menials are beginning to suffer under this system, and that some of them must be fed at small kitchens. If, however, the parents come on to the work at night, this will hardly be possible, and we shall probably have to fall back upon requiring the Lambardars to see to the proper feeding of these children in the villages. It is not likely, I think, that the people will want to bring children on to the works with them when working at night, but if they

do, they need not be prevented. Children can probably come on to the works pretty easily on pay days soon after sunrise, and arrangements could be made by Tahsildars in the villages to send them to the work under care of the chaukidars and one or two others, but any very old and feeble or lame dependants need not come to the work at all, and can be paid through the Lambardars, one of whom should come on the work each pay day and take back and disburse in the village the allowance due to such persons. Arrangements should be made for a single roll-call of dependants residing in camps when the people and officials leave the work at 10–11 o'clock. After a few days' regulation and experience no special trouble need, I think, be caused by this.

7. *Task.*—As regards the task, Colonel Jacob, Mr. Campion, Mr. Orr and Mr. McGregor do not consider any reduction necessary at present, while Captain Burlton and Mr. MacDonald and the Civil Surgeon of Gurgaon think a reduction of even 20 per cent. is too small. All agree with me that there is no doubt that we must watch the effect of the task very carefully as the heat increases and must be prepared to reduce it if necessary, but in view of Colonel Jacob's experience in 1897, there does not seem to be sufficient reason to reduce it at present, and I agree now with Mr. Campion that a reduction of 20 per cent. would not be called for in the first instant at least, and that the reduction of one working hour would suffice. The matter rests primarily with Deputy Commissioners and Executive Engineers, and these officers must please keep a very careful eye on it, and report for sanction of reduction of the task when this is considered really necessary, reducing the task in anticipation of sanction if really satisfied that this is called for. The Civil Surgeon should be requested to issue instructions to all inspecting and local medical subordinates to pay very careful attention to this.

8. The Superintending Engineer has suggested that an enhancement of the wage may be needed again during the severe heat. I should be very averse to adopting this plan, and it could only be supported on the ground of clear proof of general falling off in the condition of the people on the relief works. Their condition must be carefully watched as the great heat comes on, but the last remedy I consider to be applied is that above suggested.

9. Colonel Jacob's proposal regarding the interference with work by dust-storms should be adopted, viz., that the full normal wage should be given when a dust-storm prevents the full task being done, and the minimum wage if it prevents any work being done at all.

10. Mr. Campion draws attention to the possible necessity of providing some armed night watchman at camps in neighbourhoods where wild animals may be at night. Naib Tahsildars should find no difficulty in arranging at once for these through the Tahsildar of the tahsil.

11. I hope that a printed copy of the correspondence in this case will be shortly in the hands of all officers.

No. 96.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 919, *dated Simla, the* 25*th June*, 1900.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin regarding the arrangements to be made for dependants on relief works during the remaining weeks of relief, and the measures to be adopted to remove people from the relief works to their homes when the rains set in.

1. From Commissioner, Delhi, to Punjab Government, No. 277, dated the 22nd May, 1900, and enclosures.
2. From Punjab Government to Commission, Delhi, No. 899, dated the 20th June, 1900.

Enclosure 1 in No. 96.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 277, dated Delhi, the 22nd May, 1900.

I have the honour to address Government upon the two questions noted below, which are dealt with in paragraphs 3 and 4 of your letter No. 628 of 26th April, viz. :—

(1) The arrangements to be made for dependants on relief works during the remaining weeks of relief ;

(2) The measures to be adopted to remove people from the relief works to their homes when the rains fairly set in.

2. My circular No. 167 of 18th April, forwarded to Government under cover of my letter No. 235 of the same date, had been issued before the receipt of your letter in question, and on receipt of it I issued my No. 195 of 5th May, copy of which is enclosed, with copy of the answers to it noted on the margin.

Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, No. 184 G., of 10th May, 1900.

Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, No. 652 G.F., of 11th May, 1900, paragraphs 6 and 7.

3. These answers are not complete, but I have discussed the subject on the spot with the local officers in Gurgaon, Hissar, Rohtak, and Karnal, and I have come to the conclusion that the importance of the question is realised by all Civil and Public Works Officers, and that the question of arranging for dependants during the hot months may now be safely left in their hands. The old people among the dependants will be swept on to the gratuitous relief lists as far as possible—the dependants in camp are easily arranged for—and so far officers find that they can carry on the system hitherto pursued in each case without difficulty, *e.g.*, on the Karnal works the children come regularly to meals at the kitchens twice a day still, and in Hissar they are brought daily to the roll call. It appears that while men and some of the women come on to the work early in the night and do the digging, the mass of the carriers do not come till daylight, and that the children can and do come with them. As above said, therefore, I would now leave the matter in the hands of the local officers.

4. As regards the removal of workers from the relief works when good rains set in, it will be seen that all officers share the opinion of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor that we should continue the system of large relief works till then, and believe that the great majority of the people will then leave the works of their own accord, and will manage somehow to carry on in their villages until the autumn crop ripens. Mr. Humphreys, who has written a careful letter on the subject, thinks that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the $\frac{1}{3}$ who will go off at once, or, say, one-half of the whole, will be able to support themselves in some way or another, and that one half will have to be provided for later. I confess that when I proposed starting village relief works for these people in paragraph 8 of my letter No. 126 of 22nd March, and in paragraph 9 of my No. 130 of 26th idem, I overlooked the fact that the village tanks will probably be full of rain water from 15th July on, and that relief work can hardly be started on them. I do not know how this difficulty was met in Hissar in 1897, but I observe from paragraph 41 of Major Dunlop-Smith's report that whereas 247 village relief works were in progress just before the rains, only 100 were in progress at the end of July, and that the numbers on relief works, which were 67,500 on 3rd July, were 21,500 on 31st July, and fell under 10,000 after second week in August. We cannot, I think, expect so rapid a desertion of works by any natural process in the present year, as the circumstances of the people are very much worse than they were in 1897, and much larger numbers will certainly cling to the works if we allow this till September, or even October. Therefore it is that I proposed to remove these persons and to pay them a small sum in their villages calculated to support them for two months, or for so much of the two months as may be necessary. (An allowance for two weeks could be given to the family on leaving the works, and the subsequent fortnightly

allowances would be paid by the Circle Inspector under the special order in each case of a Tahsildar or Naib Tahsildar or higher official). His Honour is disposed to consider that this might prove a demoralising process, and there is a risk of demoralisation resulting from nearly every form of relief. The object in the present case is to get the people back to field work, and that work will certainly be as hard as any we can exact from them on relief works. Captain Burlton would start village relief works; Mr. Humphreys is opposed to these. Personally I have no belief in such works, or in the possibility of effective management of them. The whole facts of the case are now before Government, and I shall be glad to receive early orders as to what policy is to be adopted. Personally I would still close all our large tanks at the end of July, and send off to their homes with a monthly allowance of Rs. 5 (Rs. 4 would be too low I now think. Rs. 5 represents 2 annas 8 pies per diem for a family of 4–5), to be paid fortnightly, all who still wished to remain on them. The alternatives to this are either to keep a certain number of the large works open, concentrating the remnant of workers on them, which would be the better though more expensive plan of the two, I consider, or to start village relief works. For the sake of supervision I think these must be confined to one for every group of 4–5 villages. The people need not, I think, be moved back to their villages until the rains actually break. In most cases they are at a distance of only one day's journey from them, and so can reach them almost immediately. As a matter of fact, the half of the people who will be able to manage without assistance from 15th July—15th September will slip off gradually during the 10 days before the monsoon comes.

5. The cost of maintaining people in their villages for two months would be roughly as follows :—

Village.	Nos. of Families.	Cost at Rs. 10 for two months.
		Rs.
Hissar	10,000	1,00,000
Rohtak	4,000	40,000
Gurgaon	1,500	15,000
Karnal	1,500	15,000
Total		1,70,000

I have been informed by the Provincial Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee that they will be able to place Rs. 2,00,000 at my disposal for expenditure under head IV. of the objects of the fund, and I think myself that this money might be best spent in restoring by an early date to their homes landowners and cultivators who otherwise will not be able to return there till later. If it is not considered desirable to spend money on the above object, or if Government consider it necessary to require work from these people, then the two lakhs in question will be available for advances for the purchase of oxen and seed, regarding which I have addressed you in my letter No. 278 of this date.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Deputy Commissioners, Gurgaon, Hissar, Rohtak, and Karnal. Circular No. 195, *dated Delhi, the 5th May*, 1900.

In continuation of my circular letter No. 167 of 18th ultimo, I have the honour to invite your attention to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No. 628 of 26th idem, regarding certain measures to be adopted for the management of relief works during the summer months.

2. As regards dependants, it will be seen that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor is in favour of the plan proposed by Colonel Jacob on the Kaluwas tank in the Hissar District (copy enclosed). That plan might no doubt be the simplest, but it means a change of system, which is hardly desirable at the present advanced stage of relief works, though I am entirely in favour of the principle embodied in it, and as I noted in my letter of the 18th ultimo, Captain Burlton has found it necessary to change the plan as regards the children of menials on certain of the Rohtak relief works. The Executive Engineer of Hissar believes that there will be no practical difficulty in the children dependants coming on the works daily with their parents, even in the hottest weather, and that it is not safe to allow them to come only on pay days. So long as the parents do not object to bringing the children dependants daily from the villages—children at the breast would presumably have to come in any case—there is no strong reason perhaps why they should not come. The whole bearings of the question are not perhaps very clear yet, and I shall be glad of a further expression of your opinion and of that of the Executive Engineer on it about 15th May, when we shall have had two weeks' experience of this hot weather.

3. As regards the question treated in paragraph 4 of the letter of the Punjab Government, I shall be glad of a full expression of your views by an early date. The Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor is in favour of my proposal of keeping the people on the large relief works as long as possible, but would transfer them to their homes before the rains break, but with so capricious a rainfall as that of this division, I doubt if we can safely transfer the people from the works, or can give them advances for ploughing, until the rains have fairly set in in each individual tahsil. His Honour also considers that we should then start village relief works in each village, and should require the village people to maintain themselves by working on these at double rates of wage. This would involve a very large number of works, and I doubt if we could possibly exercise any proper supervision over them, at least at any reasonable cost. Your reply to this portion of the present letter should be sent separately as an answer to my No. 130 of 26th March, which should now be furnished as soon as possible.

Annexure II.

Note by Colonel S. L. Jacob, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, on the Kaluwas Tank Famine Work, dated the 7th April, 1900.

Piece-work is just started. The idea is that it is necessary to have a wage which includes allowance for dependants to prevent the necessity of bringing children from Bhiwani in the hot weather. The idea is doubtless commendable, but the way of working it is very defective. I have not seen a satisfactory solution of the piece-work system except where the family party system is followed. Where this is the case, the net earnings are handed over to the head of the party and nothing more is needed. This works fairly well at the Jhelum Canal and Delhi-Agra Railway (both unlimited piece-work). It is not proposed to follow this here. What has been actually done is as follows :—

(1) A rate has been determined omitting the Sunday wage, but otherwise professedly following orders of Chief Engineer, including an allowance for dependants.

(2) A normal task for the gang has been marked out and also an additional 20 per cent. to this.

(3) The actual work done is worked out in money at the rate prescribed.

(4) This money is approximately divided into equal amounts for each—

Digger.
Carrier.
Working child.

The mistakes or defects are the following :—

1st. The rate was not rightly calculated, for the reduced lead was too short. Sub-Divisional Officer does not see that the lift is necessarily the height to which the basket must be lifted between the place of filling until it reaches destination (I have found gross mistakes in this matter elsewhere). The lead too as taken by him was somewhat short, hence the rate was too low.

2nd. The (4th) method above described was badly done. Let us take some examples :—

The grain rate is 12 seers 10 chataks per rupee. The normal wage of—

Digger is	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	6	pice.
Carrier	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	4	„
Working child	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	„

without any allowance for dependants.

Gang No. 5—Had a task of	630
Work done	630
Each digger was paid	6
Carrier was paid...	5
Working child was paid	2

Here only the carrier had any advantage from supposed allowance for dependants, and working children were cut for nothing. Rs. 4–6–6 was the value of work; Rs. 4–6–0 payment; Rs. 0–0–6 saved.

Gang No. 4—Task 480, work 480.

Each digger got	7		
Carrier got	4		
Working child	3		
	Rs.	*a.*	*p.*
Value of work	3	5	9
Payment	3	5	3
Saved	0	0	6

Here the diggers got extra, not carriers. It is plain that the working is very unequal in its incidence, and mistakes are easily made.

A much simpler system is possible and should be followed.

The normal wage without allowances is 6, 4, 3 respectively. Add 20 per cent. for dependants and we have the following :—

7·2, 4·8, 3·6.

Take for a new normal wage 7, 5, 3 (it might be said that 3·6 should be taken as 4, but I take it as 3 because the 3 is in itself somewhat high for 8 chataks value).

Now proceed as follows :—

(1) Mark out normal and 20 per cent. extra task as before.

(2) Suppose the normal work is done, do not use a rate at all but pay 7, 5, 3 as above. Suppose 20 per cent. extra is done, then instead of 7, 5, 3, the wage would be 8·4, 6, 3·6.

In this case pay 8, 6, 4 respectively.

(3) Short work should be prevented, but if short work does occur within 20 per cent. of normal task, then 6, 4, 3 may be given ; if less than this, then 3, 3, 2, but habitual short work should, if the gangs are in health, be met with turning off the work. If, however, short work is caused by bad dust-storms and a fair task has been done, then the normal of 7, 5, 3 may still be given.

(4) The payments are for three days. Short work, if any, on first two days should be made up on the other day.

(5) If any extra work short of the 20 per cent. is done, the balance to get extra for one day in three may be made up on the other days.

Thus suppose 10 per cent. over normal is done on the first day and the same on second day, then the wage for—

First day will be 7, 5, 3,

Second day will be 8, 6, 4,

but this can only apply to the three days for which payment is made at one time.

Now for the camp people who get Sunday allowance. Normal, without allowance, is 6, 4, 3 ; add one-eighth and we have 6·75, 4·5, 3·375 ; add 20 per cent. for dependants and we have 8·25, 5·4, 4·05, or by approximation 8, 5, 4, the carrier getting as before here ; so 8, 6, 4 may be given.

For 20 per cent. more pay 10, 7, 5,

For 20 per cent. less 6, 4, 3,

Less than this 5, 3, 2,

habitual short work as before to be met by turning off.

Annexure III.

Letter from Captain P. S. M. Burlton, Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, No. 184 *G., dated the* 10*th May*, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your office Circular No. 195, dated 5th May, 1900, and with reference to paragraph 3 submit the following.

2. The Department Public Works Relief Works, with the exception of Pir Baha-ud-din Tank, will last us until the rains break, *i.e.*, right up to the end of June, and as the proportion of people residing on the works is such a small one, no steps are necessary to get the people back to their homes. Pir Baha-ud-din will last till the first week in June, and even longer, if I am given permission to start a "village work" within the Municipal limits of Rohtak, to which the Rohtak workers on Pir Baha-ud-din (over 1,000) may be withdrawn. As soon as sufficient rain has fallen everywhere all the agriculturists will leave the works, or rather will not leave their villages for the works, and the question then remains whether we are to start village works or pay them in cash sufficient to keep them going till the harvest is reaped. I have already in this office letter No. 138G., dated 12th ultimo, in reply to your Circular No. 130 of 26th March, 1900, expressed my opinion that cash should not be given. There must be large numbers who will not be able to participate in the agricultural operations which will take place as soon as good rain has fallen, and work must be found for them somewhere or other. The starting of village relief works will do this, and at the same time give the necessary relief to the zamindars, who will be able for the most part to carry on their agricultural operations and village works together.

There is, however, one aspect of the case, which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has apparently overlooked. This is, how are we to dig village tanks when they are mostly full of water from the rains.

It is quite impossible to start village works in each village, and to restrict the work in each village to the people of that village. The number of works would be enormous, and supervision of any sort would be impossible even if the present staff were quadrupled. If the objection as to the tanks filling up with water can be got over, I would advocate selections of certain villages for village works and the allotment of certain other villages to each village work. The parcha system should be employed ; all should work who require relief, any honourable exceptions being given cash help when absolutely necessary.

That is, I would advocate both systems being tried, and preference being given to village works where feasible, and the extension of each system would depend on conditions, which it is impossible to forsee or foretell at the present moment.

Annexure IV.

Extract of Letter, No. 659 G. F., dated the 11th May, 1900, from R. Humphreys, Esquire, Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division.

As regards what arrangements it will be necessary to make to get the people back from the works to their villages opinions are rather more divided. Last famine village works were largely resorted to in the later stage of the famine, and when the rains broke, the rates of wages on the large works were lowered to induce the people to go to their villages.

It is not proposed to start any village works if possible this time.

In my No. F., dated 8th April, 1900, in reply to your Circular No. 126, I suggested that at the beginning of June a certain number of village works should be started for the people on works who belong to villages more than 20 miles from a large work. Subsequent enquiry shows that except in Sirsa there are no such works, and that in that tahsil it does not appear to be necessary to make any special arrangements for them, as in every case they can reach their homes in two days from where they are now employed. The intention, therefore, is that relief workers should remain on our large works until the rains have set in well and that they should then go to their villages and plough.

To carry out this policy we are confronted with two questions which must be answered :—

(i) How are the people to be made to leave the works ?

(ii) How are they to live until they get up some crops ?

When the rains break probably four-fifths of the people will go off to their villages of their own accord, and probably two-thirds of them would be able to manage, in ways best known to themselves, until the crops come up. In this connection I leave out of consideration entirely advances for seed and bullocks, as they will be rigorously calculated so as to be only sufficient for the purpose for which they are given. The remaining fifth therefore must be got back to their villages, and the third kept alive for, roughly, two months. As the fifth will most certainly be included in the third, it seems out of the question to force it off the works by reducing the wages. It must consequently either be done by providing them with work in their villages or by relieving them gratuitously. As I have above explained, it is practically certain that a certain number of people would leave the works of their own accord, who if the works were kept open indefinitely, would be inevitably driven back to them again after a fortnight or three weeks. We must arrange, if possible, to get hold of these people before they go off in the first instance. I should consequently advocate that say a week after the second good fall of rain has come the works should be definitely closed and the people sent back to their villages.

We thus come to our second question, work in their villages versus gratuitous relief. Now in this question we need only legislate for good average rains, for if the rains fail us again there will be no closing of relief works.

As the only work practicable in villages is tank digging, and as we are counting on average rains having commenced a week before this remnant from our works arrive in their villages, it is only natural to assume that the village tanks will be full of water and will not be available for work.

Accordingly we are forced back on the method of giving the people on the works when they are closed an allowance per family sufficient for a month with the promise of a second instalment for a second month if required afterwards. There is, of course, the objection of demoralisation to be raised to this, but I do not know what other alternative we can adopt, and it seems to me that perhaps, considering our general famine administration, in which such a large number of people are regularly gratuitously relieved, the extra demoralisation of this method would not be so great after all.

Sums expended on this purpose would, in my opinion, come properly within the scope of the charitable relief funds. It is rather difficult to make any reliable estimate of what amount would be required for this purpose, but I think it would not be far wrong to say that if the works are closod as above explained, there would probably be about 50,000 people on them then, including dependants, *i.e.*, 10,000 familes of an average of five to a family. If we take Rs. 4 per mensem as the sum necessary to keep this average family going we get Rs. 80,000 for the two months, which does not seem to be excessive.

Enclosure 2 in No. 96.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, No. 899, *dated Simla, the* 20*th June*, 1900.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter (No. 277) dated 22nd May, 1900, and to say, with reference to the treatment during the hot weather of the dependants of relief workers, which is the first of the two subjects therein discussed, that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with you that the matter may now be safely left in the hands of District Officers.

2. The second subject dealt with in your letter is that of the measures of relief necessary in the later part of the summer and in the rains. It is now universally agreed that famine relief on public works should be continued until good rains set in. Thereafter, you propose, about the end of July, to close all large works and to send off to their homes, with a monthly allowance of Rs. 5 per family, all those who still cling to the works, and who will be thereby shown, in your opinion, to be unable to hold out on their own resources till the reaping of the kharif harvest. With reference to His Honour's apprehension that this might prove a demoralising process, it is true no doubt, as you say, that there is a risk of demoralization resulting from nearly every form of relief. But it seems to His Honour that there is another objection to the proposed system. You propose, His Honour understands, to wait until the people have in most cases left the works, and then in regard to those who remain and are not willing to leave them, to make this unwillingness the criterion of their receiving not only a viaticum but a maintenance allowance for two months.

3. Let it be considered how such a system will work in practice. In the first place if the people know beforehand what is going to be done, the prospect of such an allowance will act as an inducement to keep them on the works to the detriment of agricultural operations. If the secret is kept (which will, His Honour thinks, be difficult) then those who have gone off the works first will, as soon as they find others coming off with a maintenance provision, feel that they have been unequally treated. On the other hand, it is undoubtedly of great importance to enable all people now on relief works to turn to cultivation as soon as possible after the rains set in, and if, therefore, it is found two or three weeks after that date that the numbers on the works are such as you anticipate, His Honour will not object to your removing them from the works and providing them with a sufficient sum to support each family for a fortnight. The Lieutenant-Governor understands it to be your intention to arrange that during that fortnight careful enquiry should be made to ascertain whether the people

who have received these allowances are engaged on agricultural work, or can manage to support themselves till the kharif harvest ripens. In cases where the results of this enquiry are not satisfactory a small additional allowance would be made. I am to say that, subject to what is said below on the subject of village works, Sir Mackworth Young agrees to these proposals.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that while Mr. Humphreys is in favour of the system advocated by you, Captain Burlton is strongly of opinion that cash gratuities should not be given to the people who have been on relief works. It appears to His Honour that this difference of opinion may be due to different local conditions, demoralization not having in Rohtak reached the stage it has in Hissar. Whatever conclusion may be come to in regard to Hissar, Captain Burlton's proposal is approved as regards Rohtak that some large works should be kept open even after the rains have set in, and that village works should be opened as well.

5. And, although precise instructions would be out of place before the situation has further developed, Sir Mackworth Young thinks that the same system should, as far as possible, be followed in Hissar. Some large works should be kept open (unless the rain makes this impossible) in order to meet emergencies, such as a long break in the rains or even a failure of the monsoon. And the futility of starting village works does not appear to His Honour to be fully established. You mention in your letter under reply that village tank work went on in Hissar in 1897 even after the commencement of the rains, and so there would appear to be no insuperable obstacle to such work being undertaken in the present year. Existing village tanks may be extended, even if full of water, by means of excavations made close to them; or new tanks may be dug. And the Punjab Famine Code prescribes (Correction Slip, No 15, to Section 106, based on the recommendations of the last Famine Commission) that village tanks may usefully be brought into requisition in order to keep the people at their homes when the time for the preparation of the land for the harvest comes. The Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, is pleased to direct that in Hissar, as well as in other districts, village works should be started, and should be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in paragraph 4 of my letter No. 628, dated 26th April, 1900, except in places where it is absolutely impossible to provide them.

6. In the concluding paragraph of your letter under reply you suggest that the allotment placed at your disposal by the Executive Committee of the Charitable Fund might be devoted to restoring, by an early date, to their homes, land-owners and cultivators who otherwise would not be able to return there till later, *i.e.*, to the carrying into effect of the system which, in the previous part of your letter, you have recommended to Government. In regard to this I am to say that as His Honour has now decided that it is for Government to undertake this obligation, the system referred to in paragraph 3 of this letter should be worked wholly at Government expense.

No. 97.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 1378-F., dated Simla, the 4th July, 1900.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 919, dated 25th June 1900, with which you forward a copy of correspondence regarding the measures to be adopted to remove people from relief works to their homes when the rains set in.

2. The Government of India understand that the district officers are to be authorized to place on gratuitous relief for a limited time such able-bodied labourers and their dependants as still remain on the large relief works after

the rains have set in, with the object of enabling them to return to their villages. At the same time some large works are to be kept open and village works also started. It is assumed that arrangements will be made to secure that persons thus gratuitously relieved will not be allowed to receive pay for work on village works, or on any large work which may be kept open in the vicinity of their homes.

3. Subject to this caution the Government of India have no objection in the circumstances to the measure in question. I am, however, to suggest that, in view of the hesitation felt by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to this extension of gratuitous relief, it may be found less demoralising to give the desired aid in the form of advances for subsistence under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. The rules on which these advances are given provide for this, and in Bombay takavi grants to the ryots are now being made with the object not only of enabling them to prepare and sow their fields, but also to support themselves and their farm labourers until the first crop ripens. It will no doubt be neceeeary to write off eventually a considerable portion of the loans, but their immediate effect as compared with gifts is probably less open to objection on the score of demoralisation.

ADVANCES FOR AGRICULTURISTS.

No. 98.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esquire, Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 552, *dated Lahore, the* 10*th April*, 1900.

I AM directed by the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor to address you on the subject of the budget allotment made to the Punjab by the Government of India for the year 1900–01 for advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, in Resolution No. 1361 A*., dated 16th March, 1900, in the Finance and Commerce Department.

2. The allotment amounts to Rs. 13,82,000 only as compared with a budget estimate of Rs. 19,00,000, and while it is stated that if in Bombay, the Central Provinces, and Madras, further advances are found to be absolutely necessary for relief of distress, applications for additional allotments may be made during the course of the year, no such permission is given in respect of the Punjab.

3. I am to say that when the budget estimate for the current year was framed, it was not possible for the Punjab Government or the Financial Commissioner to gauge the full extent to which famine conditions would develope, and the estimate of requirements on account of advances to agriculturists was consequently an imperfect one. It was not till near the end of the financial year that the Commissioner of the Delhi Division found himself in a position to be able to calculate the needs of his Division with any exactness, and his letter No. 145, dated 9th March, 1900,* of which a copy is herewith forwarded for the information of the Government of India, was received too late for the Lieutenant-Governor to take action upon it before the estimates for the current financial year had been dealt with by the Government of India. But, I am to say, the letter in His Honour's opinion, clearly establishes the necessity for a very much larger amount being distributed in advances to agriculturists than that originally contemplated, which included only five lakhs of rupees on

* Paragraph 9.

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* The allotment to the Punjab for advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts was Rs. 13,82,000.

account of the Delhi Division, instead of the 14 lakhs now thought necessary by the Commissioner. The allotment to the Punjab for this purpose, far from being reduced below the budget estimate should, His Honour thinks, be in excess of it, if the Government of India are in a position to provide the money.

4. The reduction of the allotment to the Punjab below the amount of the budget estimate is explained in paragraph 5 of the Government of India Resolution above quoted to be due to the fact that when the estimate was framed it was not expected that there would be a Charitable Famine Fund, whereas such a fund has since come into existence. In regard to this, I am to say that advances to agriculturists are beyond the scope of that fund. One of the objects to which it has been recognised that the fund should be devoted is certainly the restitution of the destitute, but in connection with a reference to the Central Committee from the Executive Committee of the Fund in this Province on the subject of loans for the purchase of fodder for well cattle, the former body have unanimously decided that the practice of granting loans should not be adopted, and that all relief should take the form of free gifts. Now, while there are certain classes who may, when destitute, suitably receive free gifts of cash to help to restore them to their original position, Sir Mackworth Young is of opinion that the class to whom advances may be made under the Agriculturists' Loans Acts is not one of those, and the effect of relieving its members by means of free gifts instead of by the grant of loans would be demoralising and politically bad. The existence of the Charitable Fund therefore is no reason for diminishing the amount to be lent to agriculturists, nor does it relieve Government of its responsibilities towards that class.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor fully understands that the Government of India, as stated in paragraph 4 of its Resolution quoted above, cannot at present allot more than Rs. 13,82,000 for the needs of the Punjab. But for the reasons which have been given above, viz., that those needs were not fully represented in time, and that the Charitable Fund cannot help the Province to the extent anticipated by the Government of India, His Honour hopes that if the Government of India hereafter finds itself in a position to augment the allotments which have been made, the case of the Punjab may receive full consideration.

Enclosure in No. 98.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 145, dated the 9th March, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith an estimate of the probable expenditure upon famine relief in the Delhi Division during the year 1900-01.

2. I assume that we shall receive such summer rains as will enable a fair harvest to be sown. I am unable to form any idea of what the distress would be or what its successful relief would cost should such an awful calamity as yet another failure of the summer rains take place in the Hissar District.

UMBALLA.

3. My estimate submitted to Government under cover of my letter, No. 50 C. of 18th September last included a total expenditure of Rs. 1,25,000 on relief in the Umballa District, and of Rs. 2,00,000 in the Delhi District. Luckily, Umballa shortly afterwards received some rain in time to make spring sowings, and the people devoted themselves strenuously to raising well crops, and fair to good rains everywhere in the district since Christmas have secured a crop which removes all fear of famine. Should any ordinary work be required in any part of the district to tide the people over a few weeks, this can be provided by ordinary funds.

DELHI.

4. In Delhi, contrary to my expectations at the time, based on the recorded facts of 1897, distress has hardly made its appearance, and it is not likely that it will now do so to any extent, as the spring crop will be reaped in another three weeks at the ontside. Fortunately, business in the city has been brisk in all branches, and, in consequence, the poorer classes have been able to find work to do ; and the workers on the Delhi-Agra line have been either refugees from Rájpútána, or labourers transferred from Rohtak. These are in all about 4,000 now, and allowing for 5,000 for four months, *i.e.*, to end of July, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per day, we may put the probable cost of relief operations in the Delhi District at 56,400 next year (it will amount to about 50,000 this year), or as numbers on such a work will probably melt away more rapidly when the rains come than on a work manned from the villages round it, say 50,000.

HISSAR.

5. I have just completed a somewhat extensive tour in this district, and my general conclusions on the subject of famine relief in it have been separately submitted to Government, and need not be repeated here. In September last, whilst recognising that distress would be severe and far reaching in Hissar, much more severe and far reaching than in 1897, I estimated for an expenditure of 8 lakhs this year and a similar sum next year. This, however, will not be nearly sufficient. Our numbers on relief works have gone up in Hissar at the rate of more than 10,000 a week during February, and now stand at 130,000, and it is quite possible that we shall gradually touch the number of 200,000, all recipients of relief, though possibly we may halt somewhere between 150,000 and the higher number (I have given my reasons in the letter above referred to for considering that relief to the present extent is absolutely necessary, and that it is being properly administered). Should that be the case we must provide much as follows—at the rate of Rs. 3 per person per mensem :—

Month.	Persons.	Cost.
		Rs.
April	170,000	5,10,000
May	190,000	5,70,000
June	200,000	6,00,000
July	100,000	3,00,000
August...	50,000	1,50,000
September	25,000	75,000
Total		22,05,000

The provincial cost per unit last famine was a little under 7 pice per day, which gives Rs. 3·4-0 per head per mensem—on gratuitous relief we are at present paying Rs. 2 as the equivalent of the minimum wage—and though grain rates are less now than then, the establishment charges will be higher, and probably Rs. 3 will be found to be pretty near our mark. This gives the very large sum of 22 lakhs of rupees to be spent next year on Hissar relief as against 8 lakhs originally calculated by me, and I am afraid the actual cost of relief will not come to less than this. I believe that we shall have to help a great many people to leave the works by advances of a month's subsistence wherewith to carry on their homes, and I have attempted to allow for this in the numbers estimated for July, August, and September.

Rohtak.

6. I calculated the expenditure of Rohtak as 4 lakhs in all—Rs. 1,50,000 this year, and Rs. 2,50,000 next year. The first estimate was exceeded before the end of January, and the total expenditure up to 31st March alone is likely to be some 4 lakhs. There are now over 30,000 people on the works, and we must expect this to rise to 45,000, I fear. One new work will be opened directly, and two more will, I think, be needed probably. In that case the forecast will be somewhat as follows:—

Month.	Persons.	Cost.
		Rs.
April	40,000	1,20,000
May	45,000	1,35,000
June	45,000	1,35,000
July	20,000	60,000
Total		4,50,000

and the cost would amount to 4½ lakhs; the total cost being double of my estimate. As Government is aware, the system followed in Rohtak is piece work, on which the dependant's allowance is included in the wage paid, and is not given separately. In consequence, the cost per unit is taken as 1½ annas higher here than elsewhere, as the 15 per cent. allowed for dependants should be added for dependant units to the above numbers. I feel sure that in Rohtak the people will leave the works very much more rapidly than in Hissar as soon as good rains fall. The numbers of people living in the camps on the Rohtak relief works is everywhere small, and even these will be only too anxious to return to their home permanently, and as their villages are in no case half deserted, and the houses left by them will have suffered but little, they will go off all the more readily.

Gurgaon and Karnál.

7. The cases of Gurgaon and Karnál may be dealt with more summarily as below:—

Month.	Gurgaon.		Karnál.	
	Numbers.	Cost.	Numbers.	Cost.
		Rs.		Rs.
Present	17,000	51,000	13,000	39,000
April	20,000	60,000	15,000	45,000
May	25,000	75,000	20,000	60,000
June	25,000	75,000	20,000	60,000
July	10,000	30,000	10,000	30,000
Total	80,000	2,40,000	65,000	1,95,000

In both these districts people are likely to leave the works as soon as good rain falls. I observe that this was not the case in Karnál in 1897, but it will be so

in 1900, I take it. My original estimates for these districts were Rs. 2,25,000 and Rs. 88,000. These estimates, as all the others, were made purely with regard to the facts of 1896-97, and possible deductions from them.

8. The outcome of the above is an expenditure as follows :—

—	Rs.
Hissar...	22,05,000
Rohtak	4,95,000
Gurgaon	2,40,000
Delhi	50,000
Karnál	1,95,000
Total	31,85,000

My estimate in September last was for an expenditure of Rs. 15,38,000, or barely half, which I regret to say has proved altogether inadequate. As will be seen below, I think it will be well to add something to the above amount as a margin to make the estimate complete.

Takavi.

9. There remains the question of the amount to be given in advances for seed and plough cattle, and in Hissar at least the sums needed for these purposes will be very large. The figures below show what was given in 1897, and what I would roughly estimate now as necessary :—

—	In 1897.		1900.
	By Government.	From the Charitable Relief Fund.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hissar...	4,79,000	2,35,000	7,75,000
Rohtak	6,000	44,000	2,00,000
Gurgaon	8,000	6,000	2,00,000
Delhi	31,000	4,500	75,000
Karnál	35,000	49,000	1,50,000
Total	5,59,000	3,38,500	14,00,000

This is a very large sum, but nothing less will, I fear, set the people fairly on their feet again. I am not aware how far the Provincial Charitable Fund will be able to help us again in this direction. As a matter of fact I would very much prefer to see that all these advances should be made matters of business, and that they should all be gradually recovered, or at least that half should be so. In that case the funds of the Provincial Committee might be specially devoted (1) to enabling people to return to and repair their homes when the rains fall, and live there until the next harvest is ripe for reaping, and (2) to assisting respectable people and especially pardah-nashin women to struggle through the present crisis, which would greatly reduce our lists of gratuitous relief. In

Hissár at least, as above noted, we shall have to remove many of the people from the works and get them back to agricultural pursuits, and we shall need to give them enough to live on for a month or six weeks when we do this. The Commissioners of Divisions are not, I observe, being consulted by the Provincial Charitable Committee regarding the grants in aid sought by Deputy Commissioners.

GENERAL ESTIMATE.

10. Taken altogether, expenditure on relief and in advances will amount to Rs. 46,10,000, and to be on the safe side we had better increase this by about 10 per cent., or say 50 lakhs. I wish it were possible to reduce it largely, but this is quite impossible. I regret that my original estimates should have been so low, but we had very little to go upon in September last, and though I have steadily forecasted a great increase from 1896–97, my forecast has not been nearly sufficiently wide in its scope. But that prices are ruling so moderately (our famine wage is paid for the most part on grains selling at 11 to 12 seers per rupee), and are likely to fall to some extent at least a month hence, the cost of our large works which have been found inevitable on the present occasion would be working out to a considerably larger sum than that estimated by me.

No. 99.

Telegram from Government of India (Financial Department) to Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 2,339-A., dated Simla, the 14th May, 1900.

'Your letter to Department of Revenue and Agriculture, 552, of 10th April. Additional allotment of five lakhs for agricultural advances during current year sanctioned.

No. 100.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 1044-F., dated Simla, the 22nd May, 1900.

I am directed to say that as a special measure undertaken with the object of facilitating the recovery of agriculturists in famine tracts from the losses sustained from drought, the Government of India are pleased to direct :—

(1) That all advances made in famine tracts under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for seed, cattle, and subsistence of cultivators in connection with agricultural operations undertaken during the approaching rains may be made free of interest.

(2) That the first instalment in repayment of the principal of such advances may be postponed for 12 months from date of the advances. The dates for the remaining instalments will be determined by the Local Government with reference to the existing rules applicable to advances under the Act.

(3) That the Local Government may hereafter grant remissions in respect of the principal of such advances, according to the circumstances of the debtors, up to one-half of the aggregate sum advanced in the Province.

No. 101.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 1048-F., dated Simla, the 23rd May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1044, dated the 22nd instant, and with reference to your telegram, No. 36, dated 10th instant,* I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 12 lakhs for advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act during the current financial year to cultivators in the districts of the Punjab affected by famine.

2. I am to state that this grant is exclusive of the allotment for advances under the Act made in the orders on the Local Loans Estimates for 1900–1901 (Financial Resolution No. 1361 A., dated 16th March, 1900) and of the additional grant of five lakhs sanctioned in telegram No. 2339 A. dated 14th May, 1900, from the Government of India in the Finance Department.

No. 102.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 843, dated Simla, the 6th June, 1900.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the orders* passed by the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor on receipt of your letters No. 1044 F., dated 22nd May, 1900, and No. 1048 F., dated 23rd May, 1900, intimating the concessions which have been made by the Supreme Government in regard to advances to agriculturists in famine tracts for seed, cattle, and subsistence of cultivators, and conveying sanction to an additional grant for the Punjab of 12 lakhs under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. A copy of the correspondence marginally noted† is also forwarded for reference.

* No. 840, dated 6th June, 1900, to the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner.

† Commissioner Delhi's No. 278, dated 22nd May, 1900 (*without* enclosure).
Commissioner Delhi's No. 189, dated 26th March, 1900 (*with* enclosure).

2. Sir Mackworth Young trusts he may be permitted to express in behalf of the Province his gratitude for the generous treatment it has received at the hands of the Government of India as regards both the amount allotted for loans to agriculturists and the liberal terms allowed for the grant and recovery of advances.

Enclosure 1 in No. 102.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esquire, Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, No. 840, dated Simla, the 6th June, 1900.

In continuation of the endorsement from this office, No. 770, dated the 25th of May, 1900, I am directed to forward a copy of a letter No. 1048 F., dated the 23rd of May, 1900, from the Government of India in the Department

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* Forwarding estimate for advances to cultivators for cattle and seed before the setting-in of the rains..

† Not printed.

of Revenue and Agriculture, in which sanction is conveyed to a grant of 12 lakhs for advances under the Agriculturists Loans Act during the current financial year in the districts of the Punjab affected by famine, in addition to the grant of five lakhs sanctioned in letter No. 2339 A., dated the 14th of May, 1900, from the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce. I am to point out that the additional allotments of 5 and 12 lakhs respectively will enable the Financial Commissioner to meet the demands of the Delhi Division.

2. I am further directed to say that in view of the liberal terms for recovery of taccavi allowed by the letter from the Government of India, No. 1044 F., dated the 22nd of May, a copy of which was forwarded to you under cover of my endorsement No. 770, dated the 25th of May, 1900, no such announcement would seem to be necessary as is contemplated in paragraph 3 of the Commissioner of Delhi's Circular No. 130, dated the 26th of March, 1900, a copy of which was forwarded to you under cover of my endorsement No. 643, dated the 27th of April, 1900, while the proposals contained in paragraph 6 of the Circular are within the spirit of the terms offered by the Government of India. The case of village menials, which is dealt with in paragraph 7 of the circular, should, I am to say, be considered by the Financial Commissioner, and if he agrees with the Commissioner the loans may be given as proposed.

3. I am to add that the concessions made in the letter from the Government of India, No. 1044 F, dated the 22nd of May, 1900, should be freely made in the affected parts of the Delhi Division. How far and in what districts or parts of districts elsewhere they should be allowed is a matter which the Lieutenant-Governor would prefer to leave to the discretion of the Financial Commissioner, but I am to request that a copy of the instructions which the Financial Commissioner proposes to issue to Commissioners on the subject may be forwarded for the information of the Government.

Enclosure 2 in No. 102.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 278, dated the 22nd May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 277 of the date, I have the honour to address Government on the subject of advances needed to restore the prosperity of the cultivators of this Division.

2. I regret to find from your letter No. 552 of 10th April that the figures contained in my letter No. 145 of 9th March, which I believe were telegraphed to Government three days earlier, were too late for consideration and inclusion in the current financial estimates of the Government of India. I should have addressed Government immediately on the receipt of that letter had I not already issued my Circular No. 130 of 26th March (forwarded to Government under cover of my No. 135 of that date), but having issued that it seemed to me desirable to await the replies of officers before addressing Government. Unfortunately these are not complete yet, and I can only submit those noted in the margin; but the time when these advances may be needed is coming so nigh and the assignment of four lakhs of rupees which the Financial Commissioner has been able to make me in his letter No. 2447 of 22nd April is so utterly inadequate that I dare not delay this reference any longer.

Deputy Commissioner Rohtak's No. 138 of 12th April, 1900 and No. 190 of 14th May, 1900.
Deputy Commissioner Hissar's No. 659 of 11th May, 1900.
Deputy Commissioner Karnal's No. 174 of 3rd May, 1900.

3. In my letter No. 145 of 9th March I estimated the wants of the Division at 14 lakhs of rupees, but I regret to say this is no longer adequate, and I am now obliged to ask for 18 lakhs as the minimum with which the restoration of

prosperity can be effected, and I should be very grateful if this sum could be made 20 lakhs. The figures given in my letter of March and now asked for compare as follow :—

District.	1897.	Originally proposed by Commissioner.	Present Estimate of Deputy Commissioner.	Now Proposed by Commissioner.
	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Hissar	7,14,000	7,75,000	10,00,000	10,00,000
Rohtak	50,000	2,00,000	4,00,000	2,75,000
Gurgaon	14,000	2,00,000	2,00,000	2,00,000
Delhi	35,500	75,000	75,000	50,000
Karnál	84,000	1,50,000	3,25,000	2,00,000
Umballa	—	—	25,000	25,000
Total	8,97,500	14,00,000	20,25,000	17,50,000

I will proceed to note on the case of each district briefly.

Hissar.

4. Mr. Humphreys has given detailed figures upon which his estimate is based. Hard hit as the poor people of the Hissar District are, I think he has underestimated their powers of self-help, and that the sum for which he asks, *viz.*, ten lakhs of rupees, should be sufficient for the purpose which we have in view with perhaps a little additional help next year. At any rate as the Deputy Commissioner observes, we cannot safely go further on the present occasion, the debt of the district being already 16 lakhs of rupees, which the addition of ten lakhs will raise to nearly five years' revenue.

Rohtak.

Captain Burlton and his Revenue Officers have painfully acquired a very minute knowledge of the revenue conditions of the Rohtak District. I consider however, that, compared with Hissar, his estimates are too high, and I cannot recommend a larger sum than Rs. 2,75,000 for the Rohtak District.

Gurgaon.

Though the actual distress in this district has not been so great as in Rohtak, the losses of cattle have been spread over a larger area, and on the whole I think the district is in need of about as much help as Rohtak is. I would therefore assign it Rs. 2,50,000.

Delhi.

I have reduced the estimate from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 50.000. The district could do with more, but must be content with so much.

Karnál.

Captain Lowis has asked for Rs. 3,25,000 (for oxen and seed Rs. 15.000). Compared with the demands of other districts I consider this somewhat high, though the Kaithal villages have undoubtedly suffered terrible losses of cattle and I would fix the amount at Rs. 2,00,000 or Rs. 50,000 more than I did in March.

5. The sum of 18—20 lakhs now recommended for expenditure in an area not larger than two large districts is probably unprecedented, but I confess I do not see any prospect of restoring the prosperity of the people and recovering the sums overdue to Government without this aid. I am strongly opposed to any of it being given by way of gift, but I am altogether in favour of the greatest possible generosity by way of loans and of suspension of the land revenue when our cultivators are overtaken by the dreadful calamity of famine, and I would beg that generous assistance may be afforded to the people of the Delhi Division on this occasion. The question of the merits of gifts and loans for the purchase of seed and plough cattle has been discussed in paragraph 4 of your letter of 10th April, and I need not advert to it here. Should it not be possible to devote the two lakhs of rupees which the Provincial Famine Charitable Relief Committee propose to place at my disposal to the object of replacing people in their homes who will otherwise have to remain on our relief works, then this money also should no doubt be spent on gifts for the purchase of plough cattle.

6. Fortunately the expenditure on famine relief which I anticipated in my letter No. 145 of 9th March, 1900 has proved over the mark, and the money saved in this direction will be available for a larger Provincial taccavi grant. The actual expenditure during April and the first two weeks in May shows a saving of Rs. 10,76.926 as per margin, and it is certain I think that the additional sum of six lakhs of rupees now sought will be recouped twice over in the savings in the anticipated expenditure on Relief Works.

—	Estimate.	Actuals.
	Rs.	Rs.
Hissar	10,80,000	3,41,792
Rohtak	2,55,000	94,017
Gurgaon	1,35,000	44,521
Delhi	28,000	13,394
Karnál	1,05,000	32,350
Total ...	16,03,000	5,26,074

7. I trust I may receive very early orders upon this letter, of which I have sent a copy to the Financial Commissioner. As the subject demands a further immediate reference to the Supreme Government, and as it is closely entertwined with actual measures of famine relief, my course in addressing the Government direct upon it will not I think be disapproved. Another reason why orders are urgently needed is that we may be able to announce throughout the Malwa country and the Ganges Doab that large advances are being made by Government for the purchase of plough cattle in the west of the Delhi division, so that owners of spare cattle there may bring their animals over for sale. We cannot expect any supplies of cattle from Rajputana, as was the case in 1897.

8. I should be glad to learn if the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor is able to approve of the views expressed in paragraphs 3, 6 and 7 of my letter No. 130 of 26th March. Paragraph 7 is one of those points I think with regard to which we should try to keep up the responsibilities of the landowners towards the cultivators.

Enclosure 3 in No. 102.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 189, *dated the* 26*th March*, 1900.

In forwarding for the informotion of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor copy of my letter No. 130 of this date, regarding the measures to be taken for the restoration of agricultural prosperity upon the cessation of famine in this division, I have the honour to request that the Deputy Commissioners of the Division may be supplied with printed copies of the letter as per margin.

Hissar	12
Rohtak, Gurgaon, Karnál	7 each
Delhi, Umballà	5 each

Annexure I.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Deputy Commissioners, Hissar, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnál, Circular No. 130, *dated Delhi, the 26th March*, 1900.

As I hope that more than half the bitter period of famine and distress through which our people are passing (I trust both without undue suffering and without demoralisation) is now over I have the honour to address you on the subject of the relief needed to establish them once more in their homes when the rains again descend in their accustomed quantity.

2. The annexed paragraph of my forecast of the cost of famine relief during the coming year will give you a general idea of my views on this subject. I will now proceed to express them in detail with the view of eliciting you own opinions upon all points connected with it.

There remains the question of the amounts to be given in advances for seed and plough cattle, and in Hissar at least the sums needed for these purposes will be very large. The figures below show what was given in 1897, and what I would roughly estimate now as necessary :—

	1897 By Government.	From the Charitable Relief Fund.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hissar	4,79,000	2,35,000	7,75,000
Rohtak...	6,000	44,000	2,00,000
Gurgaon	8,000	6,000	2,00,000
Delhi	31,000	4,500	75,000
Karnál	35,000	49,000	1,50,000
Total	5.59,000	3,38,500	14,00,000

This is a very large sum, but nothing less will, I fear, set the people fairly on their feet again. I am not aware how far the Provincial Charitable Fund will be able to help us again in this direction. As a matter of fact I would very much prefer to see that all these advances should be made matters of business, and that they should all be gradually recovered or at least that half should be so. In that case the funds of the Provincial Committee might be specially devoted (1) to enabling people to return to and repair their homes when the rains fall and live there until the next harvest is ripe for reaping, and (2) to assisting respectable people, and especially purda-nashin women, to struggle through the present crisis, which would greatly reduce our lists of gratuitous relief. In Hissar at least as above noted we shall have to remove many of the people from the works and get them back to agricultural pursuits, and we shall need to give them enough to live on for a month or six weeks when we do this. The Commissioners of Divisions are not, I observe, being consulted by the Provincial Charitable Committee regarding the grants in aid sought by Deputy Commissioners.

3. I am disposed to think that the amount which need be given in advances for seed, at least outside the Hissar District, will not be very large, and that on the advent of good rains the village traders will have the sense to make sufficient advances for such purchases. Unless they do so they are not likely to be able to immediately recover any portion of the debts due to them ; and it will be well in this connection to make it widely known that if Government has to make advances for seed and recover them from the crop sown, there will be little or no balance available for the satisfaction of debts and decrees, which will therefore have to stand over.

4. As regards plough cattle you are, I believe, having a careful enumeration made of the stock remaining in the villages and sent away from them for the time being, and you will no doubt be able to presently furnish me with data of approximate accuracy under this head. The losses have no doubt been very severe, but we cannot profess to do more than to help to provide a sufficiency of oxen for ploughing the lands, and our estimates must be strictly limited to this. Please therefore supply general data of the number of ploughs for which help is needed and the area usually ploughed by one pair of oxen, as a check on the number of oxen wanted after deducting those still present in the villages. In Hissar largely, and in Rohtak to some extent, advances for oxen have in the past been devoted to hiring animals, and as it has been ruled that there is no objection to this we must take the fact into consideration in framing our estimates of the sums needed, for the cultivation of a full kharif crop.

5. I do not think that there will be any necessity for us to arrange to procure plough cattle. As soon as it is known in the Punjab proper, and in the Doab (and we will ask

Deputy Commissioners and Collectors to make it known) that large sums are available for the hire and purchase of plough oxen in the Hissar District, traders will, I feel sure, bring over as many animals as we shall need for hire or for purchase.

6. I am afraid that it will prove the case that in many instances those in want of loans will no longer have unencumbered landed security to offer, this being already pledged to Government or to traders for former loans. This need not, I think, deter us from making loans. It must be understood that the grant and repayment of all of these is "imán ki bat" which is thoroughly appreciated by the people, and though we shall of course take formal agreements for recoupment, our real security will be in this, that we will take care in future that sums due are collected from the crop on which it is payable. The above principle being fully recognised and the agency of the Lambardárs and Zaildárs being properly used in the matter, we shall experience no difficulties in our realisation. Such rough details as may be possible must be given of the amounts to be advanced to persons not already indebted to Government for previous loans and to those so indebted, and the amount of the existing debt in the latter case should also be given.

7. In making advances on this occasion we must, I think, stipulate that the village menials also benefit from them. I am told that on the occasion of the first crop following the last famine the menials were kept out of the agricultural operations carried on by means of loans, and it was in consequence of this that in many cases they remained for a longer time on relief works than they really need have done. Apparently advances to such persons who could offer no security were made largely from the Charitable Relief Fund in 1897, but I should prefer to see advances made in the above manner so far as possible as keeping up the economic tie of owner and tenant. To occupancy tenants advances can be made on the security of their occupancy rights.

8. The greatest care will have to be taken to have ready by 1st July all our arrangements for immediately making advances as soon as the second rains fall. As to this, the details of Captain Dunlop-Smith's report should be studied. It will be possible in Hissar and Rohtak to place a superior officer over this work in each tahsil, and with this officer and the Tahsildár and Naib Tahsildár all at work at once the whole distribution should be accomplished in 4—5 days at the outside.

9. We now come to the question raised in paragraph 8 of my letter No. 126 of 22nd March, 1900, on the subject of relief works, viz., how far we are to remove the people from these works to enable them to resume agricultural operations and with it to the question of help from the Provincial Famine Charitable Relief Fund. As you are aware, it has been decided that all such help shall be in the form of out-and-out gifts, and therefore all aid by way of advances must come from the side of Government. As I have already indicated in my letter, No. 107, of 9th ultimo, I am very much opposed to free gifts for the purchase of cattle and seed. I think these must tend to demoralise the people and induce them to look to Government instead of helping themselves; and though I would be very easy in the terms of repayment on an occasion like the present, yet as such advances are now a well-understood feature of revenue administration in the Punjab I would deal with them all in the usual way and would take repayment of all. It is much less demoralising, I think, to remit some of the land revenue due to Government (and I am not prepared to recommend anything of this kind yet) than to make free gifts to restore agricultural stock. The matter will, however, of course be decided by Government, and you are invited to express your opinion freely upon my own views. But as noted in my letter of the 22nd ultimo many of the relief workers who have been living in our camps will have to restore their homes—in some villages, again, money will be needed for putting the drinking wells into order—and other expenditure of a special and general kind will doubtless also be necessary, and we may well ask for large grants from the Famine Relief Fund for these purposes, I think, and I shall be glad to know for what sum you would ask for your districts. My idea is that we should try to sweep off the relief works as many people as we can as soon as good rain have twice fallen, generally in July, and that in doing so we should allow a small sum to each family to carry them on until some early crop comes to hand in September, say for two months. This sum must be enough to support the men engaged on agriculture, but where it is possible to start village relief work I would require the women and children to supplement the sum by labouring on these works. Roughly speaking I should say Rs. 6 should be enough for each family for two months, or Rs. 10 where work on village tanks is not available—prices will become lower of course when the summer rains fall,—and half of this would be paid when the family leaves the work and half through Circle Inspectors or other agency in the middle of August. I shall be glad if, on the above dates, or any others which you think preferable, you will furnish an estimate of the sums needed. Half of the amount might, I would suggest, be sought from the Charitable Relief Fund as aid to enable the people to restore their homes and half be paid by Government in lieu of the relief work wages which would otherwise be paid.

10. In addition to the above general needs there will of course be cases of children who have lost parents, and mothers with families who have lost their husbands during the famine, which will need special aid to enable these unfortunates to settle once more in their homes, and such cases must not be overlooked They are suitable for aid from the Charitable Relief Fund.

11. I have said nothing about arrears of land revenue, which I reserve for a future communication. At present I am disposed to think that we shall be able to collect only very small sums of such arrears, as nearly all that we can safely collect over and above

the year's demand will have to go in the first place to pay off loans for seed made last year and to be made this year, and loans already made for cattle and now overdue. Till we see in September what the harvest is really likely to be it is idle to make any detailed conjectures on the subject.

12. I have thought it desirable to address you in detail on these subjects now, but I recognize that an early reply can hardly be sent to this letter. I shall be glad, however, to receive your reply, after you have talked the matter fully over with your Assistants and some of the leading agriculturists of the district, not later than 1st May. I have asked Government to send you copies of this letter in print.

SUSPENSION OF LAND REVENUE.

No. 103.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 1563–*F., dated Simla, the* 19*th July*, 1900.

The Government of India have recently been furnished with reports showing the action taken in the Central Provinces and Bombay in regard to the suspension of the land revenue demand in the districts suffering from famine. In order to complete their information on the subject I am directed to say that they will be glad to receive, at an early date, a report showing what has been done in the Punjab.

2. I am to enclose a copy of the report received from the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces as indicating the nature of the information required.

No. 1682-F., dated 27th June, 1900.*

No. 104.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1213, *dated Simla, the 7th September*, 1900.

In reply to your letter No. 1563-F., dated the 19th July, 1900, I am directed to forward a copy of a letter No. 223-S., dated the 27th August, 1900, and enclosures, from the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, showing what action has been taken in the Punjab in regard to the suspension of the land-revenue demand. I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor concurs in the Financial Commissioner's remarks.

Enclosure in No. 104.

Letter from the Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 223–S., *dated Simla, the 27th August*, 1900.

In accordance with the request contained in your endorsement No. 1059, dated 24th July, 1900, I am directed to submit the following brief report on the suspensions of the demand of the past kharif and rabi harvests.

2. The two statements attached show the *khalsa* demand for each harvest, the amount of *khalsa* land revenue suspended, and the balance remaining for collection. The amount of assigned revenue suspended is shown separately in the fifth column.

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* See page 83.

Taking *khalsa* revenue alone, the total figures for the Province are as follows :—

Harvests.	Demand.	Suspensions.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kharif, 1899	1,14,82,857	24,50,167	90,32,690
Rabi, 1900	1,07,06,833	17,09,803	89,97,030

For those parts of the Province in which there has been famine, viz., the Delhi Division (excluding the Simla district) and for the districts of Sialkot, Gujrat, Shahpur, Jhelum, and Lahore which are included because the suspensions there were large and the areas affected by drought considerable, the figures for the year are as follows :—

Name of Tract.	Demand.	Suspensions.	Balance.	Proportion of Demand Suspended.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Delhi Division (excluding Simla)...	51,31,825	22,36,741	28,95,084	44
Sialkot	13,98,243	2,06,350	11,91,893	15
Gujrat...	7,83,169	2,24,762	5,58,407	29
Shahpur	5,67,743	2,11,918	3,55,825	37
Jhelum	6,90,012	4,88,658	2,01,354	71
Lahore	8,54,305	1,41,448*	7,12,857	17

* A little over one-half of these suspensions was given in the Sharakpur Tahsil alone.

3. Except with regard to the differential treatment of rich and poor revenue payers, which will be noticed below, no special instructions were issued by Government or the Financial Commissioner as to the principles to be observed in granting suspensions in famine tracts. The standing orders contained in Revenue Circular No. 31 were considered to be sufficient. It may be said that in the Punjab, as in the Central Provinces (*vide* the first sentence of paragraph 14 of Mr. Craddock's letter of June 27th), while weight has been allowed to general considerations, the main basis of calculation has been the crop of the year. The general principle followed throughout the Province has been that the amount of suspensions required should be measured by the power of the revenue payer to pay the demand made on him out of the surplus of the current crop after providing for the needs of his family till the next harvest. Where, however, the resources of the people have already been crippled by previous bad harvests, this circumstance too has been taken into account, and held to justify more lenient treatment than the crop returns alone indicated; and where, as in Hissar and Rohtak the recent fiscal history was a record of mere misfortune, and in the distressed tracts—that is in Hissar, nearly the whole district—there was no crop, suspensions were allowed on a very liberal scale.

4. With regard to the differential treatment of rich and poor revenue payers, no hard and fast rules have been laid down, and Mr. Tupper will add, probably none will be eventually thought necessary. For the suspensions in the kharif harvest the practice was guided by the orders contained in Financial Commissioner's circular letter No. 4922, dated 30th August, 1897. The following extracts will indicate the nature of these orders :—"The principle to be ordinarily observed in such cases should be that suspensions are intended for those who could not pay their revenue at the time without borrowing the money, not for those, be they money-lenders, or belonging to any other class, who can pay without any undue strain on their resources." "It is not intended to subject Deputy Commissioners to the observance of any rigid rules in the matter. The broad principle which has been laid down is that suspensions of revenue ought not to be allowed to revenue payers who have the means of paying, but district officers may exercise all reasonable discretion in applying this principle in practice so far as varying local circumstances permit. At all events there can be no question that suspensions ought not

to be granted to landed proprietors of substantial means who own entire estates or subdivisions of estates, or who have acquired in ownership or on mortgage a considerable footing in any estates." Objections were from time to time raised against the principle laid down by the Financial Commissioner, especially by officers serving in the Delhi Division. These objections were summarised and noticed in paragraph 15 of the Land Revenue Report for 1897–98 as follows :—"The chief objections raised against the principle apart from the complaint as to the trouble it involves is that it deprives tenants of the protection of section 30 of the Punjab Tenancy Act. Where rents are kind rents this objection has little force, for, in the first place, the division of the crop takes place before the orders of suspension or the order under section 30 can be passed, and the landlord gets his share whether revenue is suspended or not, and in the second place where there is no crop the landlord can get no share and therefore he cannot demand rent even if his revenue is collected. Where rents are paid in cash the tenants are no doubt deprived of the protection of section 30, but the penalty imposed in section 30 (5) is so slight that it must in any case usually be ineffective. If the landlord sues the tenants for his rent the court can adopt the plan followed by Captain Dunlop Smith in Hissar, and give a decree for payment at a future date." In order to remove the objections Government ordered in its letter No. 253 of 18th November, 1899, that the principle of differentiation should not be enforced—

(*a*) In true village communities in which intruders are not revenue payers.

(*b*) Against landlords *quâ* the holdings of their occupancy tenants, whether such tenants pay rent in cash or in kind.

5. Generally the practice has been to determine from the crop returns of the whole village what proportion of the total demand should be suspended, and then to deduct from the amount to be suspended so much as is payable by rich landowners. In some districts suspensions have been granted after an enquiry into the assets of each holding, but this procedure has usually been held to be beyond the powers of the district staff. In Hissar, where the effects of the famine have been felt by all classes, no differentiation has been made. In Rohtak also differentiation was considered impracticable, and it may be pretty confidently said that in those parts of the district which were really hit by famine and in the Kaithal tahsil of the Karnal district which was similarly afflicted there was a suspension of the total demand. The same remark applies to parts of the Gurgaon district. The percentage of suspensions to demand in districts as a whole do not, except in the case of Hissar, give a true idea of the state of the case, at least in the Delhi Division.

6. It will be seen that instructions similar to those issued in the Central Provinces have not been required in the Punjab. In the first place the calamity here has been neither so widespread nor so intense in the areas where it has occurred. In the second place the tenures in the two Provinces differ. In the Central Provinces there are a large number of tenants under the malguzars who have to be protected ; whereas in the Delhi Division (excluding Simla) out of a total cultivated area of 7,858,042 acres, 6,851,265 acres are cultivated by the owners themselves or by tenants holding under them without any right of occupancy, and in the Province as a whole the corresponding figures are 27,328,190 acres and 24,113,015 acres. Thus in almost all cases it is only the capacity of the owner himself to pay the land-revenue demand which has to be considered. Thirdly, the procedure followed in this province has been somewhat different. The standing orders contained in the Revenue Circulars were not only sufficient, as might be expected for divisions where there has been no real famine, but they also enabled the Commissioner of the Delhi division to administer this important branch of famine relief without seeking any fresh orders either from the Financial Commissioner or from Government. Mr. Fanshawe discussed the matter with all his Deputy Commissioners and sent them various instructions from time to time, but he did not find it necessary to submit these instructions for approval. The Financial Commissioner so far as he is able to judge of the results up to the present time, considers that Mr. Fanshawe's proceedings in this matter have been quite judicious.

Annexure I.

Statement showing the Fixed Land Revenue Demand for Kharif, 1899, the Amount Suspended and the Balance to be Realised.

Name of District.	Fixed Land Revenue (Khalsa) Demand for Kharif, 1899.	Amount Suspended.	Balance.	Amount of Assigned Revenue Suspended.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Hissar	6,00,881	5,09,660	91,221	10,848	
Rohtak	5,28,174	3,30,725	1,97,449	—	
Gurgaon	6,14,570	2,71,851	3,42,719	6,636	
Delhi	3,79,580	1,02,118	2,77,462	7,133	
Karnal	4,03,748	1,19,450	2,84,298	26,925	
Umballa	3,71,587	82,111	2,89,476	65,256	
Simla	7,960	—	7,960	—	
Kangra	4,48,366	2,828	4,45,538	—	
Hoshiarpur	6,70,964	—	6,70,964	—	
Jullundur	8,15,714	—	8,15,714	—	
Ludhiana	4,87,519	211	4,87,308	1,799	
Ferozepore	4,47,863	29,672	418,191	5,597	
Multan	2,97,593	34,405	2,63,188	99	
Jhang	1,07,227	8,096	99,131	—	
Montgomery	55,062	26,075	28,987	53	
Lahore	3,76,566	68,329	3,08,237	10,129	
Amritsar	5,12,770	51,454	4,61,316	6,873	
Gurdaspur	7,32,020	59,038	6,72,982	2,457	
Sialkot	6,97,366	1,11,172	5,86,194	4,650	
Gujrat	3,61,566	1,28,543	2,33,023	9,159	
Gujranwala	3,11,733	41,872	2,69,861	30,716	
Shahpur	2,41,886	1,05,503	1,36,383	—	
Jhelum	2,94,377	2,14,256	80,121	10,002	
Rawalpindi	4,58,110	69,704	3,88,406	2,092	
Hazara	1,35,097	3,109	1,31,988	—	
Peshawar	5,10,383	25,544	4,84,839	3,021	
Kohat	52,321	9,132	43,189	—	
Bannu	1,33,498	16,588	1,16,910	—	
Dera Ismail Khan ...	67,344	14,036	53,308	5,078	
Dera Ghazi Khan ...	1,70,259	13,688	1,56,571	2,981	
Muzaffargarh	1,90,753	997	1,89,756	—	
Total	1,14,82,857	24,50,167	90,32,690	2,11,504	

Annexure II.

Statement showing the Fixed Land Revenue Demand for Rabi 1900, *the Amount Suspended and the Balance to be Realised.*

Name of District.	Fixed Land Revenue (Khalsa) Demand for Rabi, 1900.	Amount Suspended.	Balance.	Amount of Assigned Revenue Suspended.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Hissar	1,25,570	85,177	40,393	5,077	
Rohtak	3,98,512	2,28,379	1,70,133	1,366	
Gurgaon	5,52,834	2,37,915	3,14,919	—	
Delhi	4,13,287	99,629	3,13,658	7,710	
Karnal	4,03,731	68,539	3,35,192	13,607	
Umballa	3,39,351	1,01,187	2,38,164	93,180	
Simla	7,961	—	7,961	—	
Kangra	2,68,049	6,900	2,61,149	—	
Hoshiarpur	6,51,431	—	6,51,431	—	
Jullundur	5,66,137	—	5,66,137	—	
Ludhiana	4,37,145	684	4,36,461	—	
Ferozepore	4,39,045	51,409	3,87,636	13,772	
Multan	2,64,836	4,357	2,60,479	—	
Jhang	2,12,530	8,863	2,03,667	392	
Montgomery*	1,28,397	35,991	92,406	891	* Fluctuating land revenue amounting to Rs. 1,343 is also under suspension.
Lahore	4,77,739	73,119	4,04,620	10,073	
Amritsar	5,18,950	21,812	4,97,138	2,512	
Gurdaspur	6,76,918	49,491	6,27,427	2,549	
Sialkot	7,00,877	95,178	6,05,699	3,412	
Gujrat	4,21,603	96,219	3,25,384	6,975	
Gujranwala	4,05,775	33,905	3,71,870	32,586	
Shahpur	3,25,857	1,06,415	2,19,442	3,800	
Jhelum	3,95,635	2,74,402	1,21,233	14,403	
Rawalpindi	4,52,919	—	4,52,919	—	
Hazara	94,765	—	94,765	—	
Peshawar	4,07,627	1,244	4,06,383	—	
Kohat	33,438	2,669	30,769	—	
Bannu	1,98,060	25,125	1,72,935	—	
Dera Ismail Khan ...	96,006	—	96,006	—	
Dera Ghazi Khan ...	91,034	317	90,717	509	
Muzaffargah	2,00,814	877	1,99,937	—	
Total	1,07,06,833	17,09,803	89,97,030	2,12,814	

MORTALITY IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

No. 105.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 806–F., dated Simla, the 25th April, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 586* (Revenue —Scarcity), dated the 18th April, 1900, forwarding the special monthly death-rate return for the month of March last, and to say that the Government of India will be glad to be favoured with a report as to the cause of the very high rate of mortality recorded in the Hissar District during the month.

No. 106.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 825, dated Simla, 4th June, 1900.

With reference to your letter, No. 806–F., dated 25th April, 1900, calling for a report as to the cause of the very high rate of mortality recorded in the Hissar District during the month of March, 1900, I am directed to say that the mortality in that district has for some time formed the subject of anxious inquiry on the part of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, and I am to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the correspondence marginally noted, which contains all that can be ascertained in regard to the causes of deaths during (1) the period from September, 1899, to March, 1900, inclusive, and (2) the subsequent period to the end of April, 1900, and a statement showing (1) the normal death rate of the district for each month from September to April, and (2) the actual death rate for each week from that ending September 2nd, 1899, to that ending April 28th, 1900.

Sanitary Commissioners No. 39 (not printed), dated 19th March, 1900, and its enclosures.

Letter No. 232 and its enclosures, from Commissioner, Delhi, dated 17th April, 1900.

A Note dated 15th May, 1900, by the Sanitary Commissioner.

Letters Nos. 268 and 270 (not printed), dated 14th and 15th May, 1900, from the Commissioner, Delhi, and enclosures.

2. In the earlier of the two periods dealt with in the correspondence, there occurred in December and January a comparatively brief outbreak of cholera in which 394 persons died, nearly all of them upon our relief works. The total number of deaths from all causes was 14,382, or 79 per diem, corresponding to an annual death rate of 36. In the second period there was a more severe outbreak of the disease, which has not yet ceased and which accounted for 2,063 deaths during this period. The total number of deaths from all causes was 10,098, or 240 a day, corresponding to an annual death rate of 113. Excluding deaths from cholera, the daily number of deaths was 77 in the former and 191 in the latter period. In both periods more than half the total number of deaths are attributed to fever in the returns, and rightly so, in the opinion of the Commissioner of the Division and in that of the Civil Surgeon, though the Deputy Commissioner is inclined to suspect that all illnesses, in which fever supervened before death, have roughly been classified as fever. The latter view is to some extent supported by the analysis of the Sanitary Commissioner, whose conclusion is that the high mortality from fever may be due to privation or to influenza and pneumonia.

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* See page 234 of Command Paper No. 205, presented in 1900.

3. The Deputy Commissioner concludes, from a comparison of the table in paragraph 6 of his Note with the figures in Statement B appended to it, that the death rate was higher among the population on our relief works than it was among the population not in receipt of relief. The rate in column 4 of the table is the *per mille* rate of the number of deaths in the month, in column 3 on the average daily number relieved during the month shown in column 2, multiplied by 12, to give the equivalent annual death rate. This may fairly be compared with the rate found by a comparison of the total number of deaths in the same month with the total population of the district; because, in the later months at any rate, the relief workers and their dependents consisted of entire families, and were, therefore, similar in composition to the population of the district. But the rate entered in column 10 of the Deputy Commissioner's Statement A, has been obtained by a comparison of the number of deaths among the ordinary population shown in column 9 (*i.e.*, after deducting deaths among persons under relief) with the total population of the district, 776,006. This is, of course, a mistake, because for the purpose of this comparison, the total population of the district should have been diminished by the number of persons in receipt of relief. On the population so diminished, the annual rate of mortality works out for December, January, and February, to 43, 44, and 38, respectively. And even these figures are below the real rates, because it is known that the population of the district is below normal, owing to large numbers having migrated. There is, therefore, in His Honour's opinion, no ground for supposing that the rate of mortality on relief works was any greater than among the population not in receipt of relief, except so far as it was pushed up by outbreaks of cholera confined to the works. That the death rate should be higher in poorhouses and among the recipients of gratuitous relief than among the ordinary population of the district, is only to be expected for the reasons given by the Deputy Commissioner in his Note.

4. Sir Mackworth Young is, therefore, of opinion that, at any rate as regards the mortality from causes other than cholera, the Government has nothing to reproach itself with. The special features of the present famine appear to have generated a new form of disease, or at any rate made an existing disease more virulent. As to cholera, it must seemingly be admitted that the disease is encouraged by the congregation of large numbers of people on relief works. But the casualties from this cause are small compared with the total number of deaths; they have been kept down by the medical arrangements on the works, and they represent part of the expense at which the many thousands on relief works have been kept alive by the Government.

5. Sir Mackworth Young is satisfied that, speaking generally, the attention paid during the famine to the condition of the people in the Hissar District has been most minute, and that it may confidently be stated that, apart from isolated cases which in such times of general distress must escape the powers of vigilance and the most capable staff of officials, deaths from actual starvation have been unknown, and this may, His Honour thinks, be maintained, though, after the period about which the Government of India have made inquiry, the death rate went up to a much higher figure. Still it would, in his opinion, be absurd to deny that the high death rate had its origin in famine causes, even when every allowance has been made for the other fatal influences of cholera, small-pox, influenza, and a special form of fever.

Enclosure 1 in No. 106.

Letter from the Civil Surgeon, Hissar, to the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, No. 321, *dated 24th February*, 1900.

In compliance with your letter No. 347, dated the 19th February, 1900, I have the honour to forward the following remarks with reference to the increase of mortality in the district, and regret that an earlier report could not be submitted from the pressing official attention to other urgent matters.

Assistant Surgeons Maya Das, Lachman Das and Ramji Lal and Hospital Assistant Rughu Nath Mal and Alf Din, in charge respectively of Civil Dispensaries at Sirsa, Bhiwani, Hissar, Hansi and Fatahabad were deputed to make necessary enquiries in their respective towns. I have also made personal enquiries in Bhiwani, Hansi and Hissar, and have arrived at the following consolidated conclusions and regret that I have been unable to visit Fatahabad and Sirsa, but since information regarding this subject is urgently needed and that the same circumstances conducing to the increased rate of mortality most probably affect Sirsa and Fatahabad, the omission may not be important. The causes are as follows :—

(1) The prevalence of bowel complaints, the result of eating indigestible food; pneumonia, the result of severity of weather and lack of physical resistance; measles, the result of winter causes and of crowding together; and the increase of certain diseases which are generally in this district associated with fever and from their obscure characters not generally understood, and consequently included under the heading of fevers, and to some extent to malarial fevers in certain parts of the district, involving this high rate of mortality.

(2) The increase of town population due to advent of persons from famine-stricken villages both of this district and from neighbouring Native States.

(3) Insufficiency of food stuffs in the villages.

(4) Insufficiency of clothing in the poorer classes exposed to intense cold.

(5) The influx of wanderers, insufficiently clothed, insufficiently fed, and insufficiently sheltered while travelling under influence of severe cold.

(6) Low caste persons depending for their existence upon the prosperity of the zamindars residing in famine-stricken villages.

(7) Aged persons and children of tender years exposed to severity of weather when insufficiently clothed and homeless.

(8) The influx of debilitated persons in poor-houses, whom no amount of care and attention could save.

Enclosure 2 in No. 106.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 232, *dated Delhi,* 17*th April,* 1900.

I have the honour to forward for the information of Government a Note recorded by Mr. Humphreys upon the high rate of mortality lately prevailing in the Hissar District.

2. This Note is the outcome of various communications on my part, written and oral, and I need not follow it in detail. It is a fact that the mortality from fever has been very high in all adjoining districts this winter, and is so still, and especially in Delhi City, with regard to which we are able to say with certainty that the deaths are not due to privation. There seems to be very little doubt that a number of the deaths attributed to fever were really due to pneumonia, and the Sanitary Commissioner, I believe, is inclined to think that an influenza epidemic has run through the districts concerned.

3. The comparatively low death-rate on relief works is eminently satisfactory, I think. That in the case of gratuitous relief is very high, but this is only to be expected where we have all the most miserable specimens on the country-side to deal with. And I believe the gratuitous relief is being well administered and that the amount of it is sufficient. Many of the *very old*

people had no doubt run down greatly during the bad year 1898-99 before we commenced famine relief, and according to my experience such people never recover and generally die soon after a famine is over if not actually during its progress. As regards the poor-houses we were perhaps a little late in sweeping all wanderers into them, whether they wished to enter or not, and in consequence many, and again especially the very old, had run down badly before we got hold of them. The number of deaths was largest in Bhiwani, which certainly had much the largest number of really wretched inmates, but a very great improvement had taken place generally in these when I saw them last.

4. My conclusion is that there is nothing in the death-rate which points to any defects in the administration of relief. Owing to antecedent conditions it was inevitable that the rate should be very much higher on this occasion than in 1896–97, and the severe form of fever which has prevailed has taken it up even higher than was to be expected.

5. If I do not add more it is because I feel sure that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor will cause the figures, reports, and our conclusions on them, to be independently tested and noted upon by the Sanitary Commissioner.

6. I should be glad if a copy could be sent me as soon as possible of the report and returns, which I forward in the original.

Annexure I.

Note recorded by R. Humphreys, Esquire, Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, on the increased death-rate in the Hissar District.

1. According to the Sanitary Report the average death-rate for the Hissar District is 30 per 1,000.

2. During the famine year of 1896–97 it rose to 45, and the increase was attributed to the scarcity, the greatest mortality occurring among children under 10 and persons of 50 and over.

3. Famine operations commenced again in September 1899 under circumstances in which every condition existing in the previous famine was present in an intensified form. It was therefore to be expected that the death-rate would go up considerably during the ensuing months, but yet to be modified by the fact that famine relief operations were started before signs of physical deterioration in the people became marked. In fact, it has been noted generally by inspecting officers that physically there were very few signs of famine at the beginning. and that as the famine increased in intensity the physical appearance of the people kept up wonderfully. If any wretched specimens were to be seen they were usually old men and young children.

4. We now take the actual figures month by month. They are given in the annexed table for the six months, September to February inclusive.—

Month.	Number of Deaths.	Per Thousand per Year.
September, 1899	1,693	26
October, 1899	1,724	27
November, 1899	2,092	32
December, 1899	3,075	47
January, 1900	3,185	49
February, 1900	2,618	40
Average	2,397	37

5. I have had a special table* made out, showing the death-rate and total number of deaths for the district exclusive of those which occurred on famine works, in poor-houses, or among the recipients of gratuitous relief, and these figures are not by any means out of the common. The highest was in December, when the average only reached 38 per 1,000, a figure which hardly calls for any special remarks. It is, therefore, clear that the increase in the death-rate was almost entirely due to the prevalence of

* Statement A.
I asked Deputy Commissioner to get this done.
H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

famine, and it does not seem unwarranted to presume that, but for famine, the season would have proved an exceptionally healthy one. Another point which may be noted in this connection seems to be that the famine relief appears to have reached all the needy cases. It may be urged on the other hand, that the fact of the high mortality occurring among recipients of relief would tend to show that, either relief reached the necessitous too late, or that something connected with the famine administration itself was a cause of the great mortality.

6. I give below the deaths and averages for the three kinds of relief :—

Month. 1.	Average Number Relieved. 2.	Number of Deaths. 3.	Average per Thousand per Year. 4.
A.—*Relief Works.*			
September	50,122	11	2
October	51,307	79	19
November	44.237	138	38
December	74,558	339	54
January	86,904	430	59
February	1,33,817	360	32
Total average	73,990	226	34
B.—*Poor-houses.*			
October	—	—	—
November	1,585	71	531
December	2,643	137	622
January	3,006	145	578
February	3,971	134	406
Total average	2,801	122	522
C.—*Gratuitous Relief.*			
December	14,189	113	95
January	14,919	140	112
February	16,383	134	98
Total average	15,160	129	102

N.B.—Poor-houses were started in October, and gratuitous relief in December.

7. As to relief being too late, this could only apply to poor-houses and gratuitous relief, and even then I am of opinion that if it did occur it could only be in the case of immigrant wanderers from the neighbouring Native States and especially from Bikaner.

Wandering immigration was very rife in the autumn when the prospects of the kharif got gradually worse, but slackened considerably as winter approached, a good deal, I imagine, on account of the physical difficulties of journeying on foot through a country where water could only be found at long distances, and then often of a bad and brackish quality, and when the rigour of the climate were so severe. The people, therefore, who did succeed in getting into the district arrived in an extremely wasted and exhausted condition, and were either too far gone to be able to pull round, or suffered the penalty of their rashness, on getting food, by eating immoderately and dying of indigestion. I do not consider it possible that there can have been any considerable number of our own people who died because they could not get relief. The organisation of our village relief is, I hold, considering the agency we have to work through, all that can be expected or hoped for. The Circle Inspectors, village Headmen, and Deputy Inspectors of Police were all made responsible in this matter.

Yes.

H. C. FANSHAWE.
Commissioner, Delhi.

8. As regards the second objection, whether our system was to blame, this could only affect poor-houses and gratuitous relief in the matter of judiciously tending people greatly reduced by privation. The poor-houses all have a medical attendant attached to them, and

are in the special medical charge of the Assistant Surgeon or Hospital Assistant of the town in which they are situated, so I do not think anything more can be done in this direction. As regards gratuitous relief, of course such cases cannot be avoided : a village Headman or a Circle Inspector cannot be expected to know sufficiently about or to give sufficient care to such cases. The main bearing of this objection, however, is on the famine works, and on the responsibilities involved in collecting large numbers of human beings into a limited area. This is not a point which comes within the scope of the present question. Suffice it to say that one of the limits which must be put on the number of persons on a particular relief work is that of the practicability of making proper sanitary and medical arrangements for the camp. This is a point which we have kept prominently before us in the famine administration of the district, and up to the present I do not see that we have anything to reproach ourselves with, notwithstanding the outbreak of cholera.

Yes.
H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

9. As far as the returns from our famine works are concerned, they may be taken as being quite reliable, but I fear the same cannot be said of the other returns except as concerns the number of deaths reported. With the agency at our disposal it is impossible to hope for anything like a correct classification. Now the ordinary feverish season should have come to a close in October, yet a glance at the tables will show that the main increase in deaths during the subsequent months occurred under the head "fever." At the same time reports from my tahsils showed that fever was not prevalent; the explanation must accordingly be that other causes were at work, and that the deaths were recorded as being due to fever, because the person affected, as is so often the case, had fever before they died.

10. There seems, therefore, little doubt when we consider the fact that the increase in mortality was mainly among those in receipt of famine relief, that privation and consequently decreased vitality played a considerable part in the matter.

11. Another cause is undoubtedly to be found in the fact that towards the end of the year large quantities of peas and "kisari" were imported from down country. These grains were forms of food to which our people were unaccustomed, and they were, moreover, of a class which could with only a slight stretch of imagination be declared unfit for human food.

The sale of these grains was forbidden on our relief works, but, after consultation with the Civil Surgeon, the conclusion was arrived at that there were no grounds for interdicting the sale of them generally. These grains sold usually at a rate of about a seer to two seers cheaper than "bejar," which was the cheapest ordinary form of grain in common use, and the advantage in weight led to their being largely used by the poorer classes, with very general deleterious results. Again, during the months of December and January, measles and pneumonia were very prevalent, especially in the towns.

This also was my order.
H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

12. The cholera outbreaks speak for themselves. I append a table showing the deaths from cholera on each work attacked. In this connection I may remark that it has been argued* that our people who were drafted to Jhelum took the cholera with them. However, at the time the people went off there was no cholera in the district, and the outbreak which subsequently took place in the Fatahabad Tahsil, which was the first after the commencement of famine operations, did not begin till 14th December, *i.e.*, twenty days after it broke out on the Jhelum Canals, and there was no outbreak in the Sirsa Tahsil, from which the larger portion of the people went.

* It has been established.
W. M. YOUNG.

13. There is no doubt about the cholera being prevalent in an epidemic form, but from the way it has behaved and from the season of the year at which it made its appearance in the district, it appears to be more of a special famine kind than of the ordinary virulent type.

Yes.
H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

14. As regards deaths from starvation, only three were reported during the six months under report, and these at the worst with one exception, who was a Bikaneri, were very doubtful cases, as it is almost impossible to discover enough of their previous history to be able to say confidently what the real cause of death was. They should in all probability be classed as cases of privation.

15. Apart from the cholera, which of course is a special cause when one considers the general condition of the people, and the fact that all cases of wanderers dying are included in the returns of the circle in which they die, I do not think the death-rate, although high, can be looked on as excessive. The severity of the famine cannot be exaggerated, and when one takes into consideration all that this unfortunate district has passed through during the last five years, one only wonders that things are not worse than they really are.

Enclosure 3 in No. 106.

Note by Lieut.-Col. C. J. Bamber, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab—dated 15th May, 1900.

The first thing to do is to find out whether the mortality in Hissar is much higher than it should be in a healthy year like the present. To get some idea of this I deduct the fever death-rate of the Punjab for November and December, 1899, January and February, 1900, from that of the average of the last ten years of the same months, excluding famine districts like Hissar and Rohtak. I find that in the Punjab, November gives a fever death-rate of 21·08 per mille, whereas the average for ten years is 36·83; so that last November was 15·75 per mille healthier than usual.

2. Now in Hissar in November it was 21·52 and the average for the last ten years 28·25, giving a difference of only 6·73.

In December the rate in the Punjab was 20·46 and the average for ten years 29·01, giving a difference of 8·55.

In December in Hissar it was 26·54 and the average for ten years 22·32, showing a difference of 4·15.

In January in the Punjab it was 20·58 and for ten years 24·24, a difference of 3·66.

In January in Hissar it was 30·95 and for ten years 20·39, a difference of 10·56.

In February in the Punjab it was 17·35 and for ten years 19·70, a difference of 2·35.

In February in Hissar it was 28·36 and for ten years 18·80, a difference of 9·56.

In the Punjab generally during these months fever has been much less prevalent, and it should have been the same in Hissar; the difference may be considered due to privation, or influenza and pneumonia.

3. We see from the figures given above the difference between the figures for these months, and the average for ten years becomes less month by month for the Punjab, that is, that the effect caused by a dry year passes away, the death-rate that remains being much the same as the average for ten years. In the case of Hissar it is different, as the months go on the death-rate increases and the difference becomes greater. This difference may be considered to denote, roughly, deaths caused by famine and not malarial disease at any rate. The Commissioner, Delhi, mentions Delhi City as a place where fever has been more prevalent than usual, and I find that he is right; the difference noted in Hissar is to be found in the Delhi fever death-rates for December, January and February.

4. It has been asked whether cholera may not be encouraged by gathering large numbers of people together. This may be answered in the affirmative to a certain extent. That is to say, where a large number of people drink from one or two sources, and these become contaminated, it is certain that a large number will become affected by the disease. It is necessary, therefore, that such water-supply should be most carefully protected, and as far as possible the human element should be eliminated. It is better for instance to lock up the cover of a well than to leave it open and place a man to guard it.

Enclosure 4 in No. 106.

Note dated 15th May, 1900, by the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, on the death rate in the Hissar District for the period stated below:—

Week Ending—	Number of Deaths from—		
	All Causes.	Cholera.	Fever.
24th March, 1900	988	75	618
31st March, 1900	1,521	355	835
7th April, 1900	1,920	549	919
14th April, 1900	2,077	485	1,031
21st April, 1900	1,875	348	1,044
28th April, 1900	1,717	251	928
Total	10,098	2,063	5,375

1. This is a terribly heavy death tale, the deaths from fever having risen from two-thirds of the whole in the first week to more than a half of the whole in the last three weeks, and being proportionately worst in the last two weeks.

2. The mortality of the district has been carefully watched by all local officials from Circle Inspectors upwards, and there is no ground to suppose that the main cause of it is not fever. This is proved to be the case as regards deaths on relief works, and it is the case in all surrounding districts as well, though to a less extent. For example, in the city of Delhi, where the causes of death are capable of easy ascertainment and no distress exists, the number of deaths has for weeks past been 100 over the average of 125 per week, and this increase is entirely under the head of fever.

3. The fever seems to be of a special malarial or pneumonic type. I have asked Civil Surgeon, Delhi, to obtain data and to report upon it specially, and his report may throw some light on the subject.

4. The total number of deaths in Hissar shows a fall in the last two weeks, but under fever only for the last week. We must hope that there will be a rapid fall now.

No. 107.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 1201–F., dated Simla, the 12th June, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 825, dated 4th June, 1900, forwarding a report as to the causes of the high rate of mortality prevailing in the Hissar District, and, in reply, to say that the Government of India will be glad to receive further information in this connection when the Civil Surgeon, Hissar, has completed the enquiries which he has been directed to make by the Commissioner of the Delhi Division as reported in paragraph 3 of his note of 15th May which accompanied his letter No. 270 of the same date to your address.

No. 108.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 1382, *dated* 22*nd October*, 1900.

With reference to correspondence ending with your letter No. 1201 F., dated 12th June, 1900, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 460, dated 8th September, 1900, from the Commissioner of Delhi, and its enclosures, containing a further report on the mortality in the Hissar District during the six weeks ending 1st April, 1900. I am also to enclose a copy of a letter No. 2581, dated 22nd September, 1900, from the Sanitary Commissioner of the Punjab, submitting a very interesting account of the inquiries he has instituted regarding the fevers prevalent in the tract affected by famine. This account will, the Lieutenant-Governor trusts, afford the Government of India the information asked for in your letter above quoted.

2. The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner have made a very thorough examination of the statistics available, but there are many elements of uncertainty, and it seems to His Honour impossible at present to draw any exact conclusions from the inquiry which has been made under Mr. Fanshawe's orders. The death-rate in Hissar was terribly high during the period under investigation, and was probably higher than would appear from the figures now before us in which it is calculated on the population at the time of the census of 1891, for there is unfortunately reason to suppose that the population is now less than it was in that year. And, as is pointed out by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, the mortality rate for the irrigated tract is really lower than it appears to be, as the population there must have been increased by immigration, and the converse is the case in the unirrigated tracts of which the greater part of the district consists. It is impossible, however, to say to what extent the figures are vitiated by these facts, and on the whole there is no reason to suppose that the death rate has been materially higher in the tract affected by famine than in the tract not so affected. Nor is there any ground for believing that the measures taken for the relief of famine have been other than effective and beneficial.

3. The census now about to be undertaken will afford more reliable *data* than are now available, and when its results are being tabulated an opportunity will be offered of judging what has been the effect on the affected and the unaffected tracts respectively of the past decade and of the two famines which have occurred during its course. It is needless, Sir Mackworth Young thinks, to formulate conclusions further till the Deputy Commissioner has examined the matter in his district Census Report. A copy of the correspondence on the subject will be forwarded to the Superintendent of Census Operations in the Province in order that he may direct his attention to it.

Enclosure in No. 108.

From the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, C.S.I., Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 460, *dated 8th September*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 270 of the 15th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward copy of a report* by the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar upon the high rate of mortality in that district during the six weeks following 1st April, together with a copy of my instructions † upon which the report is based.

* Unofficial No. 1,060, dated 1st September, 1900.

† Unofficial No. 401, dated 17th May, 1900, from Commissioner, to Deputy Commissioner, Hissar.

2. Mr. Humphreys has written a full and thoughtful note, and I do not know that I can add much to it. The examination which has been made in the canal and distressed tracts embraces a population of 90,000, and has therefore been pretty broad. The results are that cholera and small-pox have been ascertained to have been the causes of mortality to a greater extent than appeared before, and the results for the two tracts are as follows :—

Tract.	Average per Thousand.	
	Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.
Irrigated tracts	17	14
Distressed tracts	25	18

If, however, the figures of the Fatahabad Tahsil, which gives a rate of 7 per 1,000 only in each case, are omitted, the rate in both cases for the other four tahsils is about 20 as compared with 25 in the one case and 18 in the other case, *i.e.*, of cholera cases excluded in distressed villages of the five tahsils. The highest death-rate of all is 36 and 28 in the irrigated villages of the Hansi Tahsil, while the villages with a mortality above 45 per 1,000 compare as follows :—

Irrigated Tracts.	Distressed Tracts.
Ratera 61 ($\frac{2}{3}$ cholera and small-pox).	Rawalwas 77 ($\frac{3}{4}$ cholera and small-pox).
Nalwa 61 ($\frac{9}{11}$ ditto).	Bohal 56 ($\frac{1}{2}$ ditto).
Kawari 48 ($\frac{2}{5}$ ditto).	Bhuttu 49 ($\frac{1}{2}$ ditto).
Kotli 52 (no cholera cases).	

Practically therefore there is no great difference between the results in irrigated and unirrigated (or distressed) tracts taken as a whole, nor in the three tahsils of Hissar, Hansi and Sirsa taken separately, the figures being as follows :—

Tahsíl.	Average per Thousand.			
	Including Cholera Cases.		Excluding Cholera Cases.	
	Irrigated Tracts.	Non-irrigrted Tracts.	Irrigated Tracts.	Non-irrigated Tracts.
Hissar	20	19	16	14
Hánsi	36	25	28	25
Bhiwáni	13	32	13	15
Fatahabad	7	32	7	27
Sirsa	12	16	12	12
Average	17	25	14	18

In the Bhiwani and Fatahabad Tahsils cholera and small-pox (under which only 3 cases are entered in the irrigated villages, while 187 and 150 cases are entered in the distressed villages) account mainly for the difference between the two classes, the difference excluding cholera and excluding the Fatahabad Tahsil being in favour of the distressed tracts. But as pointed out by Mr. Humphreys, the population assumed in the case of the irrigated tracts is probably too low, and in the distressed tracts almost certainly too high.

3. In the irrigated villages there has been no actual distress, and the death-rate in them can have been affected by privation to only a very small degree. In the unirrigated tracts, putting aside the deaths due to cholera and small-pox, the principal cause of mortality has been fever, which, however, accounts for only one-third of the whole (428 out of 1,177) as against half in the irrigated villages (444 out of 758). No doubt fever has proved fatal in many instances because of the poor condition of the people, but the fact that fever accounts for half of the cases in the tracts not actually distressed as compared with one-third in the tracts distressed would seem to show that this cannot have been the case to any great extent. It is possible, however, that the fever figures for the irrigated tracts include a number of cases which were really cholera, these figures not having been checked on the spot as in the unirrigated tracts. Of the deaths in the distressed tracts one-third have occurred in families which are fairly well-to-do, and two-thirds in families in distressed condition, and this is not more than is to be expected I should say. The mortality has been greatest in infantile life, and this must always be expected in severe famine accompanied by serious losses of milch cattle, as I have previously pointed out. There is no ground, I think, for believing that exposure on the relief works was an additional special cause of infantile mortality, though the conditions of work and even residence in camps have probably not been without their small effect. Among the recipients of relief a larger proportionate number of deaths has occurred as would be expected among the people on gratuitous relief who are for the most part the most decrepit members of the community, and about one-fifth have occurred in families badly off but not in receipt of relief.

4. As regards the mortality from fever, the Civil Surgeon is disposed to consider that the disease was of an ordinary type, and this is the conclusion arrived at in Gurgaon, Delhi and Rohtak as well in all of which there has been a high mortality from fever. I have several times drawn the notice of Government and of the Sanitary Commissioner to the prevalence of the fever, and I believe Lieutenant-Colonel Bamber is making special bacteriological enquiry into its nature. An examination by him of the figures now submitted will perhaps shed more light on them than I can myself throw.

Annexure I.

Letter from R. Humphreys, Esq., C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, unofficial No. 1060–*G.I., dated the* 1*st September*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith my report on the abnormal death-rate of the district called for by Government and conducted on the lines laid down by you.

2. I regret the inordinate delay which has taken place in forwarding this report which was due in the first place to the incompleteness of some registers in the Civil Surgeon's office, which had to be completed before detailed instructions for the local enquiry could be issued, and secondly to the press of taccavi work which took all the available time of every officer, and was of such a nature as could not be put off.

Enquiry into the High Death-rate in the Hissar District.

I have already reported on the rise in death-rate in the district for the six months ending February 28th. During March and April the death-rate, already high, gradually rose and reached a maximum in May, after which it declined again, and has since been

almost uniformly declining, so that at the time of writing it has resumed quite favourable proportions, considering the period of distress and abnormal heat through which the district has passed.

2. In compliance with orders from the Commissioner detailed enquiries were made with a view to finding out, if possible, among what classes of the community the death-rate was highest, and whether any deductions could be drawn as to its causes and possible remedies.

For this purpose the period of six weeks during which the death-rate was highest, *i.e.*, April 1st to May 12th, was chosen, and six irrigated and six unirrigated villages were chosen in each tahsil in which the death-rate had been high. The irrigated villages may be taken as not having felt to any great extent the effects of famine while being, with the exception of the irrigation, subject to much the same climatic conditions as the unirrigated villages. The unirrigated villages were then taken in detail and enquiries made to show (*a*) how far the actual causes of death had been correctly recorded in the village death registers; (*b*) what proportion of the deaths occurred among well-to-do families and families in distress, and of the latter how many were in receipt of relief and how many were not; (*c*) what proportion of the people who died were biswadars, tenants, and kamins, and (*d*) what reason, if any, could be assigned for the unusually high mortality.

The results of the enquiries as to (*a*), (*b*), and (*c*) have been tabulated, and are appended herewith.

The enquiries in the various tahsils were entrusted to the following officers :—

District.	Officer.
Bhiwani	Mirza Zaffar Ali, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Hansi	Lala Sansar Chand ditto.
Hissar	M. Allayar Khan.
Fatahabad and Sirsa ...	Lala Gurditta Mal, Officiating Extra Assistant Commissioner.

I must here record my appreciation of the excellent and careful report submitted by Mirza Zaffar Ali.

6. Before proceeding to comment on the figures, I wish to point out that in many cases the figures furnished by me from the Sadr returns of the deaths that occurred in the villages in which enquiries were made do not tally with the numbers as actually found by the officers on inspecting the village death registers. The point seems hardly an important one, as the figures given from the Sadr may be neglected in face of the figures found actually recorded on the spot, but the explanation appears to be simple and to lie in the fact that the Sadr returns were compiled from the returns furnished from the police stations at which the village chaukidars perhaps do not attend as regularly as they should, and as they attend on different days of the week, the weekly returns would not all start the same date. The seeming discrepancy need not therefore impugn the accuracy of the figures or the value of the enquiry in any way.

4. Now the first point to which I wish to draw attention is that in two tahsils, namely, Hissar and Bhiwani, it was found that a number of cholera deaths had not been reported; for instance, in Rawalwas, Hissar Tahsil, 12 deaths from cholera were reported, whereas 36 actually occurred, and that while 22 cases of fever were reported only 3 actually occurred. In the Bhiwani Tahsil the case was even more glaring. In 5 out of the 6 villages cholera occurred, and in all five cases the number of cholera deaths was under-reported, while in one village, Tigrana, 43 cholera deaths actually occurred, whereas not a single one was reported. The total for the tahsil accordingly shows 187 actual cholera deaths to 82 reported, and 90 fever deaths as against 194 reported. The fact here demonstrated clearly justifies a remark I often saw occasion to make in forwarding the weekly death returns for the Commissioner's information, *viz.*, that circles in which cholera deaths were reported very often showed an increase in the death-rate out of all proportion to the number of cholera deaths and to the death-rate in cholera circles which had not been visited by cholera. These facts do not show up our Lambardars and chaukidars in a very favourable light, but taking them as a whole I do not consider they are really very much worse than those found in almost every district in the Province. The explanation seems to be that they often dread the enquiry and trouble necessary on a reported outbreak of cholera, and do all in their power to minimise the matter or to avoid reporting it at all. This feeling, however, I consider, is rapidly losing ground, and during the whole of the famine, and the large number of outbreaks of cholera which occurred, I never received a single complaint against any of the medical staff except one, and that was about a hospital assistant who was alleged to have shut himself up in a house and refused to come out and help the people. In fact generally the reports were

readily made and medical aid demanded. Where the benefits of medical aid were once experienced in dealing with an outbreak of cholera, it was afterwards eagerly sought for—a fact which is most creditable to the medical arrangements in the district.

5. Small-pox and measles were extremely prevalent during the period under report, and as a rule enquiries went to show that the recorded deaths were below the real figures. This is especially noticeable in village Jamalpur in the Hansi Tahsil where it was shown that 78 persons had died from small-pox and measles, whereas in the chaukidar's book only one death had been so recorded. These deaths of course took place mostly among children. In fact excluding cholera which attacked people without respect of age or sex the death-rate has been proved to have been high almost exclusively among children. Lala Sansar Chand reports that of the 97 deaths in Jamalpur 82 occurred among children under 12 years of age. In Fatahabad also the deaths from these causes were found to number 102, whereas only 17 had been recorded. I have little doubt but that the majority of these deaths were really measles, and not the more serious disease small-pox, though the latter was undoubtedly also prevalent to some extent and probably to a greater extent than in a normal year; but as regards the means taken to prevent it, I need only refer to the Annual Vaccination Report, which has just appeared, and to the very large number of vaccine operations performed during the year. The large mortality among children from measles and its kindred diseases may be accepted as a fact, but I cannot express any opinion as to how far the epidemic had any of its causes traceable directly or indirectly to famine, for myself I cannot see any connection. The mortality resulting from the epidemic may, however, have been heavier than it would have been in a normal year owing to the reduced vitality of the people, due to famine.

6. Keeping in view what has been said on the subject of cholera and small-pox including measles, the deaths recorded under head "Other causes" (which means all other causes not specified in the statements) calls for no remark, and we can therefore turn to the head "Fever," which of course enquiry has shown to be smaller in proportion as increases were found under the other heads. Thus the net result comes to this that out of 608 cases returned as deaths from fever, only 428 were actually found to have so occurred.

This prevalence of fever has been one of the puzzles in connection with the death-rate of the district, and of course it is beyond my province to offer any remarks on its nature; suffice it to say that I believe Dr. Weston, the Civil Surgeon, considers that it offers no special features traceable directly to famine, though it is beyond a doubt that the famine has tended to make it more deadly.

7. I now come to consider the different classes of people affected by this high death-rate from ordinary causes excluding cholera. As a rule the death-rate is higher among the people in reduced circumstances, but this was only to be expected.

No cases of death by starvation were discovered, and Mirza Zaffar Ali in his report writes:—

"The enquiries made showed that deaths from all causes took place amongst every class of people with almost equal frequency, and in proportion to the population of each class."

The figures in the statements in this connection give one very little help in drawing any inferences owing to the impossibility of gauging with any accuracy the proportion of the community coming under each head. The only column which seems to call for any remark is that showing deaths among distressed families not in receipt of relief. As regards these the consensus of opinion by the officers making the enquiry is that although distressed they were not absolutely destitute, and only one specific hard case is mentioned. This occurred in the Hansi Tahsil, and Lala Sansar Chand says 'the woman was the wife of a biswadar who himself had gone away to an unknown place for labour, leaving her unprovided for at home"; so that although she was badly off and might have been relieved from the charitable funds, yet she had her husband's land to fall back upon.

8. Practically the same remarks as in paragraph 7 apply to the figures showing deaths among proprietors tenants, and menials. The figures seem fairly equally distributed as a rule, but in Bhiwani Tahsil the proportion of deaths among the proprietor class seems higher than in the other tahsils. Similarly, in Sirsa it seems smaller. No special explanation is forthcoming for these fluctuations. The conditions of the Bhiwani and Sirsa Tahsils were more similar to one another than those of other tahsils, but probably something may be traced to the fact that in Sirsa the proprietor class are more given, in times of scarcity, to leaving their holdings in search of employment in more favoured parts than they are elsewhere in the district.

9. Before leaving this part of the subject I wish to refer again to the heavy mortality among children. Lala Sansar Chand, in his report on his enquiries in the Hansi Tahsil, gives it as his opinion that, apart from measles and small-pox, some of the high mortality was traceable to the exposure of the children to the fierce heat on the tank works, and to the parents being unable to give them proper attention. He says "all these circumstances, I am informed, which were inseparable from the working of Central Famine Tanks, hastened to bring on fever in the tender constitutions of children, and to the consequent reduction of the juvenile population of the district to such an alarming extent."

Lala Sansar Chand has gone into this question of infant mortality, and shows that in the Hansi Tahsil, out of a total of 196 deaths, 153 were of children below the age of 12, while he shows the total number of deaths among those who had been relieved on tanks, of all ages, as 31. His arguments, therefore, against large famine camps do not appear to have much foundation. On the other hand, on the same subject, Mirza Zaffar Ali, in his report, speaking of Mitathal village, in the Bhiwani Tahsil, says :—"For instance, in Mitathal, where no epidemic disease prevailed, no case of death was found to be in any way connected with famine. Of the 37 persons who died here of fever 24 were children. The parents of 15 of the latter used to work on Tigrana tank, of seven were in good circumstances, and of two received gratuitous relief. Now, in villages, the number of families which may be said to be in good circumstances while a severe famine is prevalent does not exceed half that of the families who are in distress; rather, it is generally less. It therefore cannot be said that the deaths of the children whose parents repaired to the relief work were in any way due to their not being properly looked after or being exposed to the sun at the tank." The conclusion I come to, therefore, which has been more or less my opinion all along, is that the measures taken at the relief works to provide shade from the sun for the children, and to look after them by providing medical attendance and special diet where necessary, were ample, and that little or no increase in the death-rate among children can be traced to over-exposure and want of attention on the works; and, in fact, I am strongly convinced that in a severe famine in this country it is the duty of the famine administrator to take special care of the children, as the parents are apt to neglect them owing to their superior claims of hunger.

10. I now turn to a comparison of the death-rates of irrigated and unirrigated villages. In order that a comparison may be easily made between the two, I have had the death-rate for each village run out as so many per thousand of the inhabitants for the period under enquiry from all causes and from all other causes excluding cholera. The only thing which introduces a factor of uncertainty as to the value of the result is that for the population of the villages we are dependent on figures which are ten years old, and in the case of unirrigated villages reliable information as to the number of people who had left their villages in search of employment elsewhere were not always forthcoming. Where they could be discovered approximately, they have been allowed for in calculating the death-rate per thousand. The result is rather peculiar in the Hissar and Hansi Tahsils, the rates for the irrigated villages are higher than for the unirrigated villages, and in the remaining three tahsils—Bhiwani, Sirsa, and Fatahabad—the opposite is the case. It is difficult to say what the explanation of this can be. The irrigated village of Hansi certainly used to be very unhealthy owing to water-logging, but since the extension of the Western Jumna Canal by the opening of the Sirsa and other branches this has ceased to be the case. It may be that although the water-logging has ceased there is some residue of the unhealthiness still remaining.

It must be, I think, that a good many distressed people gathered in Hansi and Hissar. They were the regular halting places of Bikaneris, &c., who used to encamp on the old canal bank and elsewhere.

H. C. FANSHAWE,
Commissioner, Delhi.

It must be remembered that no detailed enquiries were made on the spot in the case of the irrigated villages to test the correctness of the returns, but yet it is remarkable that cholera seems to have displayed a marked preference for unirrigated villages. This would probably be due to the better water-supply in the former.

11. Again, it is also noticeable in the canal villages that small-pox and measles were prevalent. This seems to have been specially the case in Hansi and Sirsa. This would again point to the fact that it was mainly among infants that the mortality was excessive. It therefore seems that, excluding cholera, small-pox, and measles, the season, though decidedly unhealthy, was not so very abnormally unhealthy after all.

12. In conclusion, I may remark that it is probable that the population of irrigated villages has been underestimated owing to the tendency of people to move to irrigated tracts, and that the converse would probably be true of the unirrigated villages. This would tend to decrease the rate per thousand of the canal villages, and to increase that of the unirrigated villages.

ABSTRACT.

Statement showing the Result of Enquiry made regarding High Death-rate in certain Villages of the Hissar District during the Weeks from 1st April to 12th May, 1900.

Tahsíls.	Number of Villages.	Population, minus Number of Deserters.	Total Deaths.	Detail of Deaths.				Total, excluding Cholera.	Deaths which took place in Families fairly well off, and not in Actual Distress.	Deaths which took place in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				Number of People who Deserted their Villages during the Period under Enquiry.	Average per Thousand on Population.		Remarks.
				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Other Causes.			Recipients of Relief.		Non-recipients of Relief.	Total.	Biswadárs.	Tenants.	Kamíns.	Others.		Including Cholera Cases.	Exluding Cholera Cases.	
										In Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.	Relieved on Tanks.										
Hissar	6	8,789	I 162 *167*	43 *15*	14 *15*	78 *114*	27 *23*	119	41	20	34	24	78	41	57	13	8	—	19	14	
Hánsi	6	7,527	I 196 *168*	7 *3*	92 *18*	83 *88*	14 *59*	189	38	99	49	3	151	61	86	35	7	310	26	25	
Bhiwáni	6	11,071	I 358 *369*	187 *52*	— —	90 *194*	81 *92*	171	51	44	—	76	120	97	34	40	—	—	32	15	
Fatahabad	6	8 310	I 270 *259*	48 *46*	102 *17*	101 *177*	19 *19*	222	79	21	113	9	143	93	63	61	5	122	32	27	
Sirsa	6	12,199	I 191 *184*	49 *49*	42 *4*	76 *95*	24 *36*	142	73	7	54	8	69	13	55	53	21	46	16	12	
Total	—	47,896	I 1,177 *1,148*	334 *195*	250 *54*	428 *668*	165 *229*	843	282	191	250	120	561	305	295	202	41	478	25	18	

Figures in roman represent the result of enquiry made.
Figures in italic represent the entries of tables compiled in the Sadr Office from the police death returns received in the Civil Surgeon's office.

ABSTRACT.

Record of Deaths in Six of the Largest Irrigated Villages of every Tahsíl in the Hissar District in which the Largest Death-rate has occurred from 1*st April to* 12*th May*, 1900.

Tahsíls.	Number of Villages.	Population.	Detail of Deaths.				Total.	Average per Thousand on Population.		Remarks.
			Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	All other Causes.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.	
Hissar	6	6,941	30	18	85	6	139	20	16	
Hánsi	6	9,523	78	85	149	29	341	36	28	
Bhiwáni	6	6,827	—	1	75	11	87	13	13	
Fatahabad	6	14,414	—	2	91	14	107	7	7	
Sirsa	6	7,175	4	22	44	14	84	12	12	
Grand Total ...	—	44,880	112	128	444	74	758	17	14	

Record of Deaths in Six of the Largest Irrigated Villages of every Tahsíl in the Hissar District in which the Largest Death-rate has occurred from 1*st April to* 12*th May*, 1900.

Tahsíls	Names of Villages.	Population.	Detail of Deaths				Total.	Average per Thousand on Population.		Remarks.
			Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	All other Causes.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hissar.	Gangawa	1,073	29	9	8	1	47	44	17	
	Landheri Sukh Lambran	1,196	—	5	17	1	23	19	19	
	Adampur	1,128	—	—	19	1	20	18	18	
	Matarsham	972	—	3	12	1	16	16	16	
	Satrand Khás	1,441	1	1	18	—	20	14	13	
	Ládwa	1,131	—	—	11	2	13	11	11	
	Total	6,941	30	18	85	6	139	20	16	
Hansi.	Ratera	1,465	19	39	21	10	89	61	48	
	Sultánpur	1,541	—	6	38	4	48	31	31	
	Nalwa	1,088	41	16	7	2	66	61	23	
	Kawari	1,234	4	17	34	4	59	48	45	
	Umra	2,327	7	6	24	4	41	18	15	
	Luhári Játu	1,868	7	1	25	5	38	20	17	
	Total	9,523	78	85	149	29	341	36	28	

Record of Deaths in Six of the Largest Irrigated Villages of every Tahsil in the Hissar District in which the Largest Death-rate has occurred from 1st April to 12th May, 1900—continued.

Tahsils.	Names of Villages.	Population.	Detail of Deaths.					Average per Thousand on Population.		Remarks.
			Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	All other Causes.	Total.	Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
BHIWANI.	Kaluwas	1,303	—	—	18	—	18	14	14	
	Chang	3,137	—	1	27	7	35	11	11	
	Guiráni	727	—	—	21	4	25	34	34	
	Náthuwas	638	—	—	5	—	5	8	8	
	Riwári	493	—	—	2	—	2	4	4	
	Sai	529	—	—	2	—	2	4	4	
	Total	6,827	—	1	75	11	87	13	13	
FATAHABAD.	Budhláda	3,643	—	—	10	5	15	4	4	
	Ahmadpur	1,607	—	—	3	4	7	4	4	
	Banawáli	696	—	2	13	—	15	22	22	
	Bhirrána	4,340	—	—	16	4	20	5	5	
	Bighar	2,799	—	—	24	1	25	8	8	
	Kuleri	1,329	—	—	25	—	25	18	18	
	Total	14,414	—	2	91	14	107	7	7	
SIRSA.	Rori	3,490	4	13	15	9	41	12	11	
	Masitan	1,283	—	2	2	3	7	5	5	
	Jandián	765	—	7	6	1	14	19	19	
	Kotli	190	—	—	10	—	10	52	52	
	Sikandarpur	771	—	—	7	1	8	10	10	
	Mangiyána	671	—	—	4	—	4	6	6	
	Total	7,175	4	22	44	14	84	12	12	
	Grand Total ...	44,880	112	128	444	74	758	17	14	

Statement showing the result of enquiry made regarding high death-rate in certain Villages of the Hissar District during the weeks from 1st April to 12th May, 1900.

Tahsíls.	Names of Villages.	Population, minus the Number of Deserters.	Total Deaths.	Detail of Deaths.				Total, excluding Cholera.	Deaths which took place in Families fairly well off and not in Actual Distress.	Deaths which took places in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				Number of People who Deserted their Villages during the Period under Enquiry.	Average per Thousand on Population.	
										Recipients of Relief.		Non-recipients of Relief.	Total.						
				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Other Causes.			In Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.	Relieved on Tanks.			Biswadárs.	Tenants.	Kamíns.	Others.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Hissar Tahsíl ...	Juglan	1,053	15 *17*	2 —	— —	*7* *13*	6 *4*	13	2	10	—	1	11	10	2	1	—	No reliable information available.	14	12
	Mirzápur	1,445	31 *37*	— *2*	6 *8*	24 *22*	1 *5*	31	11	2	6	12	20	24	—	6	1		21	21
	Ráwalwas Kalán ...	626	48 *48*	36 *12*	5 *7*	3 *22*	4 *7*	12	8	1	1	2	4	—	11	—	1		77	19
	Balsamand	2,306	22 *22*	5 *1*	1 —	7 *16*	9 *5*	17	8	3	—	6	9	7	2	4	4		9	7
	Kalriánwan	1,640	22 *19*	— —	1 —	16 *18*	5 *1*	22	7	3	11	1	15	—	19	1	2		13	13
	Dhansu	1,719	24 *24*	— —	1 —	21 *23*	2 *1*	24	5	1	16	2	19	—	23	1	—		14	14
	Total	8,789	162 *167*	43 *15*	14 *15*	78 *114*	27 *23*	119	41	20	34	24	78	41	57	13	8	—	19	14

Statement showing the result of enquiry made regarding high death-rate in certain Villages of the Hissar District during the weeks from 1st April to 12th May, 1900—continued.

Tahsíl.	Names of Villages.	Population, minus the Number of Deserters.	Total Deaths.	Detail of Deaths.				Total, excluding Cholera.	Deaths which took place in Families fairly well off and not in Actual Distress.	Deaths which took place in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				Number of People who Deserted their Villages during the Period under Enquiry.	Average per Thousand on Population.	
				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Other Causes.			Recipients of Relief.		Non-recipients of Relief.	Total.	Biswadárs.	Tenants.	Kamíns.	Others.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.
										In Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.	Relieved on Tanks.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Hánsi	Talu	1,968	36	—	—	32	4	36	9	22	3	2	27	24	5	5	2	70	19	19
			33	—	—	*28*	*5*													
	Paposa	497	12	—	—	12	—	12	—	8	4	—	12	3		—	—	40	26	26
			17	—	*3*	*13*	*1*													
	Runhat	551	17	1	4	11	1	16	4	10	2	—	12	1	15	—	—	10	31	30
			18	*1*	*5*	*12*	—													
	Gurána	1,760	12	—	—	12	—	12	7	1	3	1	5	7	3		—	40	7	7
			12	—	—	*12*	—													
	Mejahádpur	617	22	3	10	4	5	19	2	11	6	—	17	17	2	—	—	10	36	31
			18	*1*	*9*	*3*	*5*													
	Jamálpur	2,444	97	3	78	12	4	94	16	47	31	—	78	9	52	28	5	140	42	41
			70	*1*	*1*	*20*	*48*													
	Total	7,527	196	7	92	83	14	189	38	99	49	3	151	61	36	35	7	310	26	25
			169	*3*	*18*	*88*	*59*													

Bhiwáni	Tigrana	2,707	88 *94*	43 —	— —	21 *81*	24 *13*	45	13	19	—	13	32	2	11	12	—	No instances of families having deserted their villages were brought to the notice of the Extra Assistant Commissioner.	32	17
	Bahal	1,468	82 *83*	45 *23*	— —	15 *27*	22 *33*	37	10	8	—	19	27	22	11	4	—		56	25
	Ráwasa	1 382	33 *31*	14 —	— —	3 *16*	16 *15*	19	3	7	—	9	16	15	1	3	—		24	14
	Tosham	2,404	69 *67*	53 *30*	— —	8 *19*	8 *18*	16	7	4	—	5	9	8	1	4	—		29	7
	Dhani Mahu	1,133	44 *42*	32 *29*	— —	7 *8*	5 *5*	12	3	1	—	8	9	8	3	1	—		39	11
	Mitáthal	1,977	42 *51*	— —	— —	36 *43*	6 *8*	42	15	5	—	22	27	22	4	16	—		21	21
	Total	11,071	358 *368*	187 *82*	— —	90 *194*	81 *92*	171	51	44	—	76	120	97	34	40	—	—	32	15
Fatahabad	Mehunwála	1,068	27 *26*	3 *3*	1 —	22 *22*	1 *1*	24	6	—	18	—	18	19	1	3	1	18	26	23
	Píli Mandori	1,419	29 *39*	1 *1*	7 —	12 *34*	9 *4*	28	5	2	21	—	23	18	5	4	1	21	20	20
	Bhattu	1,671	80 *75*	13 *13*	27 *15*	37 *45*	3 *2*	67	25	2	40	—	42	34	9	21	3	40	49	41
	Badopál	1,982	55 *52*	21 *21*	20 —	14 *31*	— —	34	14	15	5	—	20	—	21	13	—	14	28	17
	Muhammadpur Rohi ...	988	44 *38*	7 *7*	28 *2*	4 *18*	5 *11*	37	20	1	15	1	17	5	27	5	—	15	45	38
	Kirhan	1,304	35 *29*	3 *1*	19 —	12 *27*	1 *1*	32	9	1	14	8	23	17	—	15	—	14	27	25
	Total	8,310	270 *259*	48 *46*	102 *17*	101 *177*	19 *19*	222	79	21	113	9	143	93	63	61	5	122	32	27

Statement showing the result of enquiry made regarding high death-rate in certain Villages of the Hissar District during the weeks from 1st April to 12th May, 1900—continued.

Tahsíls.	Names of Villages.	Population, minus the Number of Deserter.	Total Deaths.	Detail of Deaths.				Total, excluding Cholera.	Deaths which took place in Families fairly well off and not in Actual Distress.	Deaths which took place in Families in Distressed Condition.				Classes of Persons.				Number of People who Deserted their Villages during the Period under Enquiry.	Average per Thousand on Population.	
				Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Other Causes.			Recipients of Relief.				Biswadárs.	Tenants.	Kamins.	Others.		Including Cholera Cases.	Excluding Cholera Cases.
										In Receipt of Gratuitous Relief.	Relieved on Tanks.	Non-recipients of Relief.	Total.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sirsa	Jamál	1,699	28 *27*	1 *1*	— —	23 *25*	4 *1*	27	22	1	4	—	5	7	15	4	1	4	17	16
	Mádho Singhána ...	996	39 *30*	13 *13*	9 *1*	12 *14*	5 *11*	26	10	3	13	—	16	1	11	10	4	13	40	26
	Mangala	1,825	42 *42*	27 *27*	6 —	6 *8*	3 *7*	15	5	1	9	—	10	1	2	8	4	7	23	8
	Rania	5,110	56 *46*	2 *2*	23 —	20 *27*	11 *17*	54	22	2	22	8	32	4	14	24	12	22	11	11
	Ding	1,615	13 *16*	3 *3*	1 —	9 *13*	— —	10	7	—	3	—	3	—	5	5	—	—	8	6
	Jodhka	1,000	13 *14*	3 *3*	3 *3*	6 *8*	1 —	10	7	—	3	—	3	—	8	2	—	—	13	10
	Total	12,199	191 *184*	49 *49*	42 *4*	76 *95*	24 *36*	142	73	7	54	8	69	13	55	53	21	46	16	12
	Grand Total	47,896	1,177 1,146	334 195	250 54	428 668	165 229	843	282	191	250	120	561	305	295	202	41	478	25	18

Enclosure 2 in No. 108.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Bamber, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, Punjab, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, No. 2581, dated Lahore, 22nd September, 1900.

I have the honour to report that I proceeded on the 21st August, 1900, to Delhi, Hissar and Rohtak to investigate what varieties of fever were causing the great mortality. I had already written to the Civil Surgeons of Delhi and Hissar, Major Cunningham and Dr. Weston, asking them to find out whether relapsing or famine fever was the cause of part of the mortality by examining specimens of blood under the microscope, and to notice whether the spirillum that is the cause of famine fever was to be seen. The answer I received was that the spirillum was not to be seen, the symptoms not being distinct enough to point out exactly the form of fever.

2. I considered it would be advisable to try whether enteric and Malta fevers were present by trying the blood by the sedimentation or serum test. This test consists of taking a few drops of blood from a person who is suffering or has suffered from a continued fever, diluting it in definite proportions, and then mixing it with a solution containing the microbes of enteric or Malta fever. The highest dilution usually used is 1 in 40, but a reaction sometimes occurs in dilutions as high as 1 in 1,200. The blood serum will only cause agglutination and sedimentation of the microbes, which are causing the disease and has no effect on any other variety. For this purpose I provided myself with small sealed glass tubes to collect the blood.

I also took microscopic slides to look for the spirillum of famine fever in case the blood did not react to either enteric or Malta fever.

3. I went first to Delhi. Here I found two cases of continued fever under treatment in the Civil Hospital. I obtained specimens of blood from these two cases. Major Cunningham kindly inquired from native practitioners whether I might see cases in the city, but none were forthcoming. I think one reason for none being forthcoming may have been an objection to undergoing the prick required to draw the blood.

4. From Delhi I went to Hissar and was able to obtain specimens from three cases.

A number of cases from the town came, but after I had pricked two cases the rest disappeared. I returned to Delhi *en route* to Rohtak. While passing through, at Major Cunningham's request, I was able to take a specimen from an Eurasian, who was very glad to have the diagnosis of his disease settled. At Rohtak I was only able to obtain specimens from two persons, no others coming forward.

I took the specimens from these eight cases to the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli for examination. Of the three cases from Delhi, one proved to be Malta fever, one to have suffered from Malta and enteric fever, and one from neither.

The microscopic slide with the blood of the last case was stained and examined under the microscope, but no sprilla were visible. Of the three cases from Hissar, one reacted strongly to the test for enteric fever and slightly to that for Malta fever. This shows that the patient is suffering from enteric fever and suffered some time previously from Malta fever. The second case reacted to Malta fever, and the third to enteric fever. Of the two cases from Rohtak, one reacted to the test for Malta fever and the other to the test for enteric fever. So that altogether three cases were suffering from Malta fever, and one from Malta and enteric fever, the one previously to the other, two cases

were suffering from enteric fever, and one suffering from enteric fever had some time previously suffered from Malta fever. Major Semple, R.A.M.C., Director of the Pasteur Institute, vouches for the above results. My thanks are due to Major Semple for the time and trouble he took in the matter.

5. I gathered from the Civil Surgeons that the continued fevers that have prevailed during the famine were much of the same character as those I saw. I think we may fairly consider that the mortality from fever in the famine area has been to some extent caused by Malta and enteric fever. Though ordinarily the mortality from Malta fever is small, about 2 to 3 per cent., yet in people debilitated by want the mortality is certain to be high. It may not be out of place to mention here that for a considerable time Medical Officers in India have noticed that there is a form of continued fever which was neither enteric nor remittent fever. This now proves to be Malta fever.

Captain Lamb, I.M.S., has lately found this to be the case in Bombay.

Dr. Wright and Major Semple had previously found at Netley Hospital that some of the men invalided from India for enteric fever showed by the serum reaction that they had suffered from Malta and not enteric fever.

6. I would suggest that all Civil Surgeons be provided with the means for collecting and testing the blood, so that they could clear up the diagnosis in doubtful cases.

BERAR.

EXTRACTS FROM DISTRICT MONTHLY REPORTS.

No. 109.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 28TH APRIL, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

In view of the famine conditions having now become more acute, and it being desirable to be prepared for people with their dependants who are now on the works returning to their homes, the village relief is being expanded.

Arrangements are being made to open 49 State kitchens in the district. The principle of working these kitchens is to feed those who are in want and cannot work, especially children, at or near their own villages.

A sum of Rs. 35,190 has been subscribed up to end of the month by private persons in the district. Of this amount Rs. 18,000 have been realized, and for the present Rs. 15,000 from the sum collected have been set apart for purchase of seed to be distributed amongst poor cultivators. Besides this, Rs. 3,000 have been set apart for distributing clothes to the poor people on relief works, in poor-houses and in villages. The distribution will be made by the gazetted Inspecting Officers in the district.

The water-supply at the several relief works was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the works was fair.

There were a few cases of cholera in the relief camps at Shirasgaon, 9th mile, and Garadgaon. Immediate steps were taken to ascertain the cause of the outbreak and to stamp out the disease.

There were a few cases of small-pox in the relief camps at Garadgaon, Mohidipur, Khadki Takli, Ghusar, Akatwara and Chincholi.

No deaths from starvation have been reported.

The food-grains in the district were sufficient and the prices were stationary.

The prices of jowari, 2nd sort, and of rice, 3rd sort, were, on the 28th April, 1900, as under :—

District.	Jowar.		Rice.	
	Srs.	Ch.	Srs.	Ch.
Akola	9	8	9	0
Akot	9	8	8	0
Balapur	10	0	9	0
Khamgaon	10	0	9	0
Pathur	9	8	9	0
Jalgaon	9	8	9	0

Amraoti District.

General character of relief works.—Metal collecting, water-supply and road-making.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the period under report.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The whole of the district is seriously affected on account of total failure of kharif and rabi crops.

Basim District.

Physical condition of the people.—Generally good.

Deaths due to starvation.—Nil.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—The kharif crops mostly failed and rabi crops which had been sown in parts of Basim and Mangrul Taluqs have all withered up, except irrigated wheat in a few places which have now been reaped. The outturn has been five annas in the rupee.

Changes in rates of wages.—Labourers that could be had for three annas when jowar was selling at its normal price are now working for two annas per diem.

General characteristic of works.—Raising the bund of a tank, making reservoirs in tanks, breaking stone-metal and making roads.

Food stocks.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—Rice is being imported.

Works on the programme are sufficient for the next three months.

Buldana District.

Private relief is given in large towns in Mulkapur and Mehkar Taluqs and by selling jowari cheaper and by giving doles.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole is given throughout the district, and poor-houses are opened at Chikhli, Mehkar, and Mulkapur.

Character of relief works.—Stone-breaking generally.

Physical condition of people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Ten.

Food stocks.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—4,295 maunds of grain were imported by rail to Mulkapur.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—General condition—Bad. Fodder—Insufficient. Prospects—Bad. Water—Scarce.

Changes in rate of wages and other matters.—Mimimum wage raised from 9½ chattaks to 12 chattaks.

Ellichpur District.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Physical conditions of the people.—The general condition of the people is still wonderfully good, and the number on the relief works is not considered likely to increase much. Many of the nursing children* are very emaciated, and there is considerable mortality among them, notwithstanding that the mothers are given light tasks, or none if their children are sickly, and

* *Sic.*

all emaciated infants are fed five times a day with condensed milk. The children fed at the kitchens on works and the workers themselves are in fair condition. There is some cholera in the district and the mortality has increased, but it is lower than it was at this time of year in 1897, when the plain taluqs were but slightly affected by the scarcity.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—Land is being prepared for the kharif sowings. There has been great mortality among plough cattle, but it is not anticipated that very much land will remain uncultivated.

Changes in the rates of wages.—None ; but that the minimum wage has been raised from one anna ($9\frac{1}{2}$ chattaks) to one anna 3 pies (12 chattaks).

Sufficiency of programme.—The programme provides for over 2,300 workers for the next three months, which is believed to be an ample provision, as many workers are likely to leave the works as soon as the rains commence.

The Conservator of Forests has favoured me with the following notes regarding the Melghat :—

Private relief.—Practically confined to that afforded by the Korku Mission, which has given liberal aid in connection with supervision in giving aid to large numbers of weavers and basket-makers, and in giving special food, &c., to the sick and sorry. The Mission has also taken over all our lepers and has employed large numbers of labourers on Mission buildings, &c., &c. I cannot express too warmly our obligations to the Mission for the aid given with so much common sense and true liberality. The Sisters of the Cross at Chikalda have managed a branch poor-house for Government, and given aid from their Mission funds to some 50 poor families who they are settling in a Mission village.

Poor-house and village relief.—The number of poor-houses is still three, while village relief is afforded at about 19 centres placed equally about the Taluk with reference to population.

General character of relief works.—The cultivation of fields by hand is the main relief work, while four new roads are under construction.

Practically, anyone wanting work can obtain it, save in abandoned waterless tracts, within eight miles of his house. The individual works have to be small as to numbers owing to a short supply of water. Timber, bamboo, and grass work still afford aid.

Physical condition of the people.—As yet still fair, but there is a marked fall off in condition since mat and Government grass work stopped, as the people dislike cultivation and defer going to it as long as they can.

Deaths from starvation.—One reported, but the deaths of many suffering from different diseases have been accelerated by want. Duni poor-house has had about five deaths per week. Gatan and Chikalda are more healthy and have not suffered heavily.

Food stocks.—Sufficient for current month.

Wun District.

General character of relief works.—Breaking of stone metal.

Physical condition of the people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Two, as reported by the Police. A wanderer, name not known, supposed to be Banjara by caste, aged about 70 years, was found dead on the 14th April, 1900, on the road leading from Bori to Badgaon in the boundary of Pandurna. Deceased presumably had no food for some days. The body was sent for post-mortem to the Medical Officer, Darwa, who certified that death was probably due to starvation.

Deceased's name and caste not known, probably a Gond or Audh, aged about 50 years, was found dead in the field of one Hari Sonar of Karola in the Heivri station range. The Station Home Officer held the inquest and the opinion was that death was due to starvation.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

Information as to the sufficiency of works and the requirements for the next three months.—Ample.

There have been several village poor-houses opened from private funds, and there are something like 1,000 persons receiving relief over and above the figures quoted.

No. 110.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 26TH MAY, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

Private relief in the shape of cheap grain shops was afforded, and private charity in the form of doles was given in each of the five Taluqs in the District.

During the month 48 State kitchens or "*khichri-khanas*" were established in the district.

The food served out at these *khichri-khanas* is on the following scale :—

—	Coarsely Ground Juar.
	Chataks.
Adults	7
Children between 10 and 14	4½
Children between 7 and 10	3½
Children below 7	2¼

To every seer of coarsely ground juar is added 2 chataks of dhall of the cheapest variety (excepting lukh), one chatak of salt, ½ chatak of oil and 2 tolas chillies and the whole boiled to such a consistency that one chatak of the dry ration equals about 5 chataks of cooked food.

A sum of Rs. 42,000 has been allotted to this District from the Charitable Relief Fund. Of this amount Rs. 18,000 have been set apart for purchase of plough bullocks and the remainder for purchase of seed. The same is being distributed amongst the poor cultivators.

2,046 weavers owning 682 looms are being relieved in this District under Section 140 of the Revised Famine Code for the Hyderabad Assigned Districts. and up to the end of month under report a sum of Rs. 3,470 has been advanced to them. Rs. 15,298–3–3 have been spent on purchase of cloths turned out by the weavers relieved, consisting of dhotis, turbans, carpets and saries, and these are being carefully stored to be sold at the end of the famine period.

The water supply at the several relief works was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the works was on the whole fair.

There were some cases of cholera in the relief camps at Sirasgaon, 9th mile, Garudgaon, Ghusar, Wagholi, Khadki, Takli and Aktwada. There is no cholera now at these camps.

There were a few cases of small-pox at some of the relief camps in this district.

No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month, but in March last a suspected case of death from starvation was reported by the Municipal Committee, Shegaon.

The food grains in this district were sufficient and the prices were stationary.

Amraoti District.

Poor-houses have so far been started at Amraoti town, Amraoti camp, Thugaon, Kholapur, Zawali, Murtizapur, Dhanaj, Karinja and Morsi. The number of persons relieved at these institutions on the last day of the month was 1,827, against 1,237 relieved on the last day of the preceding month.

Kitchens have been opened on all relief works in progress to afford relief to dependants on workers.

Khichri-khanas or State kitchens apart from those attached to relief works have so far been opened in two villages, where 317 persons were relieved gratuitously. Six more Khichri-khanas have since been opened, and some more are being opened.

General character of relief works.—Road making, water supply and metal collecting.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month under report.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The whole of the district is seriously affected.

Basim District.

Poor-houses.—There were 11 poor-houses open under the management of the District Board during the month.

The village relief is also given under the management of the District Board.

There were also 26 State kitchens open under the management of the District Board.

Physical condition of the people.—Generally good.

Deaths due to starvation.—One. He was a wanderer. His residence is not known.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—The kharif crops mostly failed, and rabi crops which had been sown in parts of Basim and Mangrul Taluqs have all withered up except irrigated wheat in a few places which had yielded an outturn of five annas in the rupee.

General character of work.—Raising the bund of a tank, making reservoirs in tanks, breaking stone metal and making roads.

Food stock.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—Rice is being imported.

Works on the programme are sufficient for the next three months.

Buldana District.

Private relief is given in large towns of Malkapur and Mehkar Taluqs by giving doles to poor people.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole is given throughout the district and poor-houses are opened at Chikhli, Mehkar and Malkapur, and State kitchens are also open.

Character of relief works.—Stone breaking and railway ballast and earth-work, &c.

Physical condition of people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food stock.—Sufficient for the present.

Ellichpur District.

Physical condition of the people.—No important change. The condition of the people who remain in the villages is generally good, but some of those who had been supporting themselves by grass cutting in the hills have come back in very reduced condition now that that form of employment has been exhausted, and the only (apparent) case of death from starvation reported was that of one of these returned grass cutters. The Circle Inspector found that he was not getting food at home, and as a kitchen had been opened four miles off under recent orders, sent him to it instead of having him fed in the village, and he died on the road.

The people and children on the relief works are generally in good condition, though here and there an emaciated child of a new comer will be seen. The state of the children fed on milk shows some improvement; but many of them are still miserable objects, and there is great mortality among them, a good deal of it being due to heat.

Scale of wages.—There was no change during the month, but the price of grain has since gone up and the rate of wages must follow.

General character of relief works.—Small works like cultivation in villages were in course of organization with the object of breaking up the large gangs, save on a few roads where the people are being hutted for the rains.

Physical condition of the people.—There has been a fall-off during the month, and signs of scurvy have been noticed as wild vegetables and fruits are scarce and garden produce not procurable.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

Import of grain.—The collection of stores for the rains has commenced and is making fair progress. A grant for the relief works of 1900-1901 was received on 20th and facilitated the work of import.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—No change.

Wun District.

Private relief.—Five poor-houses have been opened out in the Darwah Taluq.

Village relief has been started from 1st June, 1900, in the Yeotmal and Darwah Taluqs.

General character of relief works.—Breaking of stone metal.

Physical condition of the people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Two.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

No. 111.

REMARKS FOR FIVE WEEKS ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

During the month 75 State kitchens or "*khichri-khanas*" were opened in the district.

During the month of report a sum of Rs. 32,200 was allotted for purchase of plough bullocks and seed—for the former Rs. 14,200 and Rs. 18,000 for the latter object. The amount of local subscriptions realized during the month was Rs. 9,037.

1,726 weavers owning 700 looms were relieved during the month under section 140 of the Famine Code, and Rs. 9,147-8-9 were spent in purchasing cloths turned out by the weavers relieved. The initial expenditure works out to Rs. 5-4-9 per head per mensem.

The water-supply at the several relief camps was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the works was, on the whole, fair.

There were some cases of cholera and small-pox in the relief camps in this district.

No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month.

The food grains in the district were sufficient and the prices were stationary.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

Private relief.

Poor-houses have so far been started at Amraoti town, Amraoti camp, Thugaon, Kholapur, Yawali, Murtizapur, Karinja, Dhanaj, and Morsi. The number of persons relieved on the last day of the period under report was 2,499 against 1,827 reported in the return of the preceding month.

During the period under report *khichri khanas* were opened in 22 villages in the Amraoti taluq, 8 villages in the Murtizapur taluq, 37 villages in the Chandur taluq, and in 25 villages in the Morsi taluq. The number of persons relieved at these institutions on 30th June, 1900, was 15,628, and they are more than $\frac{3}{4}$ths children, and in good condition on arrival.

Kitchens have been opened on all relief works in progress to afford relief to dependants or workers.

General character of relief works.—Road making, water-supply and metal collecting.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month under report.

Food-stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—General condition is good and, with the recent rain, the prospects also are decidedly good.

BASIM DISTRICT.

Poor-houses.—There were 8 poor-houses open under the management of the district board during the month.

There were also 58 State kitchens open under the management of the district board, and one under the management of the Basim Municipality.

Physical condition of the people.—Generally good.

Deaths due to starvation.—Nil.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—The sowing of jowari, urad, mung, tur, and cotton is in progress in parts of the district.

Food stock.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—Rice is being imported.

Buldana District.

Private relief is given in large towns in Malkapur taluq.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole is given throughout the district and three poor-honses and State kitchens are opened in the district; village works have also been opened.

Character of relief works.—Stone-breaking and railway ballast and earth-works, &c., and repairing road, &c.

Physical condition of people.—Fair.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food stock.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—1,856 maunds of grain imported by rail at Malkapur.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—General condition bad; fodder scarce; water scarce; prospects bad.

Ellichpur District.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Physical condition of the people.—There seems to me to have been a marked change in the appearance of the people of late, and the number in badly reduced condition has largely increased. Many have quite come to the end of their resources and all have lost heart lately owing to the holding off of the rains. There has been little or no employment in the fields of late, especially for women, and the labouring classes have lost all self-respect and are clamouring to be fed. Under the orders in force only those eligible for relief under chapter V. of the code, and the emaciated from starvation may be fed, but those refused food at kitchens 7 or 8 miles off have been coming to the headquarters kitchens in the hope of getting relief there, and crowds have been coming to me to ask for orders for food. The numbers on the regular relief camps have increased from 14,083 at the end of May to 17,621, but it is not desirable that they should be crowded with more people than watertight huts have been provided for, and village relief works are being opened as quickly as possible, and it is hoped that all on the programme will be started within the next week or so. And fortunately there has now been a change in the weather and there is every appearance of the monsoon having commenced. If so, people will take heart again; there will soon be plenty of field labour, and the cattle will get fodder, but we have been passing through a critical time lately. Some very bad cases of emaciation have been seen among children and others coming to the works and kitchens lately, but generally speaking the children on relief are in good enough condition.

The relief workers were being paid at the eight-seer rate at nearly all works. It is said that the rates for field labour for men (there is no work for women at present) were being kept up by the rates at relief works, but in view of the limited demand for labour and the increase in the numbers on the work of late, I do not think that that can be true.

WUN DISTRICT.

Private relief.—There are now four private poor-houses in the Darwha taluq. The one at Darwha was turned into a Government poor-house.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village relief, poor-houses and kitchens have been started in all the taluqs.

General character of relief works.—There are four relief works of stone-breaking.

Physical condition of the people.—Good.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food stocks.—Sufficient.

No. 112.

REMARKS FOR FOUR WEEKS ENDING 28TH JULY, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

During the month 24 large works were carried on in the district, consisting of earthwork and stone-breaking, and three small works consisting of carrying metal from the quarries to the roadsides.

Two relief works, namely, Kharab and Gharudgaon, were closed during the month, and three railway camps were opened, one at Barsi Takli, the second at Tandalwari, and the third at Hiwerkheir.

On works where there are no kitchens, the dependants are either fed in the *khichri khanas* near their homes, or are given grain dole. Since the close of the month, several other relief works have been converted into works without camps.

During the month there were seven poor-houses open.

During the month 101 State kitchens, or *khichri khanas*, were open in the district.

Since the close of the month several more kitchens have been opened.

During the month of report a sum of Rs. 80,000 from the Charitable Relief Fund was distributed for the purchase of plough bullocks and seed; for the former object Rs. 63,000, and Rs. 17,000 for the latter. The amount of local subscriptions realised during the month of July, 1900, was Rs. 754. This makes up a total of Rs. 33,281 on account of local subscriptions. 1,652 weavers owning 710 looms were relieved during the month under section 140 of the Famine Code, and Rs. 9,018-15-0 were spend in purchasing cloths turned out by the weavers relieved. The initial expenditure works out to Rs. 5-7-4 per head per mensem.

The water-supply at the several relief camps was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on works was good.

There were a few cases of cholera and small-pox in some of the relief camps in this district.

Two suspicious cases of death from starvation have been detected in the district. The matter is under police enquiry.

The food grains in the district were sufficient, and the prices were stationary.

Amraoti District.

Private relief.—Relief in shape of selling jowari cheap to those who cannot afford to buy it at market rate was provided by opening cheap grain shops at Amraoti, Murtizapur, Karanja, Dhamangaon, Chandur, and some other villages in the district. In the Chandur Taluq private relief was afforded by establishing so-called poor-houses in nine villages, and by distributing village dole in 112 villages, the daily average of persons thus relieved being 5,673. Similar relief was also granted liberally in the remaining three taluqs. The information regarding the daily average number of persons thus relieved is not available.

Allotments from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund were made to many cultivators for purchase of plough cattle and seed grain. The statistics for such relief are still awaited.

Village and poor house relief.—Relief by village dole was afforded in eight villages in the Amraoti Taluq, 113 in the Murtizapur Taluq, and in three villages in the Morsi Taluq during the month under report. The number of persons relieved on the last day of the month under report was 5,380 against 6,914 reported in the previous return.

Poor-houses have so far been started at Amraoti Town, Amraoti Camp, Thugaon, Kholapur, Yawali, Murtizapur, Karanja, Dhanaj and Morsi. The number of persons relieved at these institutions on the last day of the month under report was 2,053 against 2,499 reported in the return of the previous month.

The number of *khichri khanas* open on the last day of the month under report was 28 in the Amraoti Taluq, 8 in the Murtizapur Taluq, 35 in the Chandur Taluq, and 32 in the Morsi Taluq. The number of persons relieved at these institutions on the last day was 18,490, against 15,628 reported in the previous return. Of 18,490 persons relieved, 4,426 were adults and 14,064 children. Kitchens have been opened on all relief works in progress to afford relief to dependants on workers. The number of adults and children, including children in arms, thus gratuitously relieved on the last day of the month under report was 758 and 4,931 respectively.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month under report.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—General condition is good. With the recent rain the ryots are very hopeful of a first-class crop; the prospects are also decidedly good.

Basim District.

Poor-houses.—There were 6 poor-houses opened under the management of the District Board during the month.

The village relief is under the management of the District Board. There were also 93 State kitchens open under the management of the District Board and 1 under the management of the Basim Municipality.

Physical condition of the people.—Generally good.

Deaths due to starvation.—Nil.

Condition and prospects of affected area.—The kharif crops are in good condition.

Food grains.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—Rice is being imported in small quantities.

Works on the programme are sufficient.

Buldana District.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole is given throughout the District, and 3 poor-houses and State kitchens and village works have been opened in the District.

Character of relief works.—Stone metal collection and railway ballast and earth and tank work, &c.

Physical condition.—Fair.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

Importation of grain.—Three thousand maunds of grain imported by rail at Malkapur.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—General condition fair in Malkapur Taluq only.

Fodder, sufficient.

Water, sufficient.

Ellichpur District.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Private relief.—The village grain funds have been exhausted in the Ellichpur Taluq, but 85 persons were being relieved from this source in the Daryapur Taluq.

Village relief.—In the Ellichpur Taluq 48 village kitchens had been opened by the close of the month and 52 in the Daryapur Taluq—100 in all.

Gratuitous relief.—2,980 people were being relieved with the grain dole at the close of the month against 3,094 at the end of June. The decrease is due to the opening of kitchens, the policy being to feed as many as possible with cooked rations.

Poor-houses.—The number of these institutions remains unchanged. The number of inmates has fallen from 668 to 613.

Changes in rates of wages.—The decrease in the price of food grain has lowered the rate of wages from 1 anna and 9 pies to 1 anna and 6 pies in the case of class I., and from 1 anna 6 pies to 1 anna 3 pies in the case of class II., workers on the large works. It was found that village works were injuriously affecting the supply of agricultural labour and ryots were complaining that they were unable to obtain women to weed their fields. The wage for women has therefore been reduced to the equivalent of 10 chataks. This reduction, together with the fall in the price of grain, will no doubt have the effect of sending many of the people now on village works into the fields, and a considerable decrease in the numbers may be expected. No B. list works had been opened by the end of the month. The number of villages for which B. lists are necessary is not large, and it is doubtful whether more than a very few will have to be employed.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Physical condition of the people.—The arrangements for relief are now so complete, and it is being given so liberally in the numerous kitchens in all parts of the plain taluqs, that no one ought to want for food, and the number of wanderers is much reduced. Generally speaking, the condition of the people on relief is good and the emaciated ones are only a small proportion of the whole.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There has been a vast improvement in the state of affairs. Ample rain has fallen for the sowings. Practically all the usual kharif lands have been sown and some that are usually kept for *rabi*, and the young crops have come up well and are growing splendidly. The price of grain is falling and ample work in the fields is

obtainable in many parts of the two taluqs and will soon be obtainable everywhere. Altogether the prospects are very satisfactory and it is hoped that the end of relief operations is now within view. I have to thank Mr. Bagshawe, Conservator of Forests, for the following note on the Melghat.

Private relief—The Korku Mission has sent us a large quantity of American maize for free use in poor-houses and village relief centres, and for sale at low rates at cheap shops. The Mission has also given, through Government Agency, some plough cattle to the Melghat cultivators.

Physical condition of the people.—The people not on relief continue to fall off in condition, but those in poor-houses, at village centres, and on works are in fair condition. Cholera has nearly disappeared, but dysentery and fever are very prevalent.

Wun District.

Private relief.—There are now only two private kitchens in the Darwa Taluq which are under the management of private individuals.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village relief, poor-houses and *khichri khanas* have been started in all the taluqs. No poor-houses have been opened in the Wun Taluq only.

No. 113.

Remarks for Four Weeks ending 25th August, 1900.

Akola District.

During the month 27 works were carried on in the district, namely, 10 large works, 10 small works and seven village works.

Four relief works, namely, Antraj, Wadali, Mahidipur and Tandulwady, were closed during the month, and 18 village works were opened in the district, of which 11 were closed after a fortnight as there was plenty of field labour available, and no work was wanted in some parts of the district.

During the month there were seven poor-houses open.

During the month 142 State kitchens were open in the district, including those within municipal areas.

During the month of August, 1900, a sum of Rs. 23,100 was distributed from the Charitable Relief Fund, Akola, for the following two objects : –

Object	Rs.
I.—Purchase of clothing	7,100
II.—Purchase of bullocks and seed, &c.... ...	16,000
Total	23,100

and the total expenditure up to end of August, 1900, amounts to Rs. 1,77,083. A further sum of Rs. 15,000 was received during the month from the Central Committee, making up a total of Rs. 1,57,000, and the total amount of local subscriptions realized up to end of August, 1900, was Rs. 34,483.

1,649 weavers owning 708 looms were relieved during the month, and Rs. 9,852 were spent in purchasing cloths turned out by the weavers relieved. The initial expenditure works out to Rs. 5-15-7 per head per mensem.

The water-supply at the several relief camps was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the several works was fair.

There were no cases of cholera or small-pox in the relief camps in this district.

No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month.

The food grains in the district were sufficient, and the prices were stationary.

Amraoti District.

Private relief.—Relief in shape of selling jowari cheap to those who cannot afford to buy it at market rate was provided by opening cheap grain shops at Amraoti, Murtizapur, Karamja and some other villages in the district. In the Chandor Taluq private relief was afforded by establishing so-called poor-houses in three villages, and by distributing dole in 12 villages, the daily average of persons thus relieved being 4,600. Similar relief was also granted liberally in the remaining three taluqs. The information regarding the daily average number of persons thus relieved is not forthcoming.

Allotments from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund were also utilized in affording relief to cultivators and to other persons in need. The statistics for such relief are awaited.

Village and poor-house relief.—Relief by village dole was afforded in 10 villages in the Murtizapur Taluq, two in the Morsi Taluq, and one in the Amraoti Taluq. The number of persons thus relieved on the last day of the month under report was 482 against 5,380 reported in the previous return.

The number of poor-houses open during the month was the same as was reported in the previous return.

The number of persons relieved at these institutions on the last day of the month under report was 696 against 2,053 reported in the previous return.

The number of *khichri khanas* open during the month was 23 in the Amraoti Taluq, 11 in the Murtizapur Taluq, 22 in the Chandor Taluq, and 32 in the Morsi Taluq. The number of persons relieved in these *khichri khanas* was 2,793 adults and 8,819 children, against 4,426 adults and 14,064 children reported in the return of the previous month.

Kitchens have been attached to all relief works in progress to afford relief to dependants on workers. The number of dependants thus relieved on the last day of the month was 407 against 5,689 shown in the return of the previous month.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The general condition is good; the prospects are also decidedly good.

Ellichpur District.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Private relief.—At the end of August only 21 persons were being relieved from private grain funds (in the Daryapur Taluq).

Village relief.—The number of village kitchens at the end of the month was :—

Village.	No.
Ellichpur	53
Daryapur	49
Total	102

but it is now being found advisable to close a few. All able to earn their own living are being struck off the lists, and the number on relief on the 25th August was 7,462 against 16,456 in the last week of July.

The number on the gratuitous dole was 1,231 against 2,980 in the previous month.

Poor-houses.—The number is unchanged, but the one at Anjangaon is practically untenanted ; there are only three orphans in it.

The total number of inmates at the close of August was 200 against 613 at the end of July.

Character of relief works.—All the relief works under Public Works Department management had been closed by the end of August, except the tank at Kasampur-Samda and stone metal carrying works at the Purna and at Wadgaon. The total number of workers was 440 against 14,030 at the end of July. The Kasampur work has now been ordered to be closed.

Village works also have nearly all been closed.

Physical condition of the people.—With prospects of an early and most excellent harvest the load of anxiety has lifted, and the people are happy in the feeling that the end of their troubles is close at hand. Ample field labour is available as the abundant rain has favoured the growth of weeds while bringing on the crops at a wonderful rate. From a relief point of view the *weed* crop was an important one, and it is believed that it will in parts of the plain taluqs afford labour in the fields till the earlier cotton crops are ready for picking. The condition of the people is, on the whole, wonderfully good, considering what they have passed through, but the mortality from cholera and bowel complaints is evidence that the long months of privation have told sadly on their stamina. Some emaciated people are to be seen at the kitchens, but they are mostly confined to the old, the sickly, and to young children, and undoubtedly an improvement is visible.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—Practically the whole of the ordinary *kharif* lands have been sown, and much of the land usually reserved for rabi. A good deal of assistance has been given to poor cultivators in Government loans and grants from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and it is believed that hardly any land has been left uncultivated for want of means. There is a struggle to get the fields weeded, and many of the poorer ryots are finding great difficulty in this respect. The Takavi allotments have been exhausted, but assistance is still being given from the Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The crops are in most excellent condition in many places ; they could not look better in fact. The cotton is coming into flower and the crop is assured, and the jowari crop may almost be said to be safe now. One more fall of rain at the end of the month will make it safe.

It ought to be possible to close all relief operations very soon now.

WUN DISTRICT.

General character of relief works.—During the month the Paloti stone-breaking relief work was closed owing to favourable monsoons, and the people leaving the work in consequence.

Physical condition of the people.—Good.

Deaths (if any) from starvation.—Nil.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

Importation of grain.—Jowari is continuing to be imported from Dhamangaon side, and rice from Bengal and Burma.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The condition and prospects of the crops are prosperous.

No. 114.

REMARKS FOR FIVE WEEKS ENDING 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

During the month seven large relief works with camps were converted into small works without hutting accommodation and kitchen. The resident workers and their dependants who belonged to distant villages were drafted on to works nearest their homes.

As weeding operations in fields in many parts of the district were completed, and as there was little or no agricultural work for labourers in those tracts, especially for women and children, 20 village works were opened, admission to them being confined only to those in need, and who obtained tickets from the Patels of their villages.

Seven poor-houses were open during the month.

During the month 145 village kitchens or "*khichri-khanas*" were open including those within municipal areas.

The relief to weavers was stopped during the month and steps have been taken to dispose of the cloths purchased.

The water-supply at the several relief works was sufficient.

The physical condition of the people on the several works was fair.

There were no cases of cholera or small-pox on the works in this district.

No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month.

The food grains in the district were sufficient and the prices were stationary.

AMRAOTI DISTRICT.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Deaths from starvation.—There were no deaths from starvation during the month under report.

Food stock.—Sufficient for present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Rice and wheat were largely imported by rail into the district.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The general condition is good; the prospects are also decidedly good.

Buldana District.

Private relief.—Nil. But much assistance has been and still is being given from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to cultivators and others. The greater portion of the allotment has been given out under object IV. for purchase of seed grain and plough cattle. The grant for purchase of seed grain for the kharif crop was all expended by the commencement of September, money for purchase of rabi seed grain is now being distributed. The value of this fund can hardly be overestimated as now it seems probable that very little, if any, land will be left uncultivated for want of the necessary funds to meet expenses. Over 15,000 blankets have been distributed throughout the district to poor and needy persons ; in addition clothing has been supplied to a large number of labourers on relief works and to inmates of poor-houses. The actual number is being compiled.

Physical condition.—Fair and steadily improving.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food stock.—Sufficient to meet present requirements.

Importation of grain.—Jowari and rice were imported by rail at Malkapur, the former in large quantities.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The condition of the people in general is improving.

The kharif crops are in excellent condition throughout the district and prospects of an abundant harvest are decidedly good.

Ellichpur District.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Private relief.—This has come to a stop in the Ellichpur Taluq, and only 36 persons were relieved on the last Saturday of the month from the private grain funds in the Daryapur Taluq.

Village relief.—(a) *Kitchens.*—The number of kitchens was reduced from 53 in the Ellichpur Taluq and 49 in the Daryapur Taluq, in August, to 48 in the former and 35 in the latter taluq during the month under report.

The numbers relieved were :—

Month.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
August...	2,206	5,236	7,442
September	1,681	2,798	4,479

(b) *Doles.*—Doles were given in 12 villages in the Ellichpur Taluq and 29 in the Daryapur Taluq, 41 in all, against 85 in August.

Poor-houses.—The number remained unchanged. The number of inmates was 188 against 200 in the preceding month. The total number on gratuitous relief was 5,133 against 8,873 in August.

Physical condition of the people.—The condition of the people is fairly satisfactory, but it is unfortunate that in this part of Berar there are no early crops to afford employment in the fields now that weeding operations have come to an end. A time of difficulty for the labouring population is again setting in therefore and will continue till the cotton picking commences in the beginning of November. No further reduction in the numbers on relief is to be expected ; on the other hand an increase may be looked for.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The month now commencing will not, for reasons above stated, be one of advance towards normal conditions of independence for the poorer classes, but nothing could be more satisfactory than the promise of the crops. The late rains have made both jowari and cotton safe, except against heavy and late rains or (in the case of the latter) a prolonged term of cloudy weather that may breed insect pests, and there is every reason to expect that the end of another month will see the district restored to its usual state of prosperity. As a sign of the view that is taken by the trading community of the agricultural prospects, I note that a local syndicate has lately applied for permission to erect a new ginning factory, and the building operations and other preparations are being pushed on as quickly as possible to be in time for the coming cotton crop.

No. 115.

Remarks for Four Weeks ending 27th October, 1900.

Akola District.

There were 34 small and village works open on the last Saturday of the month, and the number of persons relieved was 6,277 against 18,990 in the previous month. These works will be closed on the 7th November, 1900.

Five poor-houses were open during the month, and the number of inmates was 110 against 593 in the month previous. These poor-houses will also be closed by the middle of November. The bulk of the inmates of the poor-houses have been sent back to their villages, and those left are orphans or people unable to travel.

The number relieved by grain doles in the municipalities was 193, and the number so relieved in villages was 1,277.

Private charity in the form of doles was afforded to 132 against 639 in the previous month.

One hundred and forty-one village kitchens were open, including those within municipal areas.

All village relief, including "*khichri-khanas*," will be closed by the 21st November, 1900, when cotton picking will be almost in full swing, and there will be plenty of labour for all able-bodied persons who would be able to support themselves and their dependants. In the meanwhile the lists are being systematically cut down and relief stopped where necessary. The cotton crop in the district is about a month to six weeks behind time this year, which has necessitated the continuance of village relief and village works so long.

Amraoti District.

All large relief works were closed before the end of the month under report. The number of village relief works in progress on the last day of the month under report was 17 against 24 in the preceding month. The number of workers on these works on the last day of the month was 1,260 against 4,220 shown in the previous return.

All village relief works were closed from 1st November, 1900, as there was no need for them.

Buldana District.

Physical condition.—Fair and improving. The State kitchens are being closed wherever found feasible.

Death from starvation.—Nil.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The condition of the people is improving. Late sowings of jowari in the Chikhle and Mehkar taluqs required rain in the middle of October. No rain having fallen, the estimated outturn of jowari is now only 8 annas in the rupee in these two taluqs.

Ellichpur District.

Ellichpur and Daryapur Taluqs.

Private relief.—Only 20 persons were in receipt of relief from the private grain fund in the Daryapur taluq on the last Saturday of the month.

Village relief.—(*a*) *Kitchens.*—The number of kitchens has been reduced to 43 in the Ellichpur and 20 in the Daryapur taluq by the end of the month, and the number relieved on the last Saturday was 4,291, against 4,479 at the end of September. All kitchens were closed on the 3rd instant, and such of the recipients of food as still require relief are being given a dole of dry grain.

(*b*) *Doles.*—The number receiving relief was 783 against 466 in September.

Poor-houses.—The number of these institutions remained unchanged. There were 273 inmates against 188 in September. The total number on gratuitous relief was 5,347 against 5,133 at the end of the preceding month.

Relief works.—These will all be closed on the 31st October. The number on the last Saturday of the month was 614.

Physical condition of the people.—The condition of the people was decidedly improved. The fact that the numbers on relief have increased, instead of decreasing, during the past month, is due to prices having gone up owing to unfavourable reports of crops in other provinces, and to there being now little fieldwork available as the moisture in the soil has prevented the cotton from ripening as quickly as was expected in some parts. Cotton picking is now going on about Ellichpur and throughout the tract of country lying under the Melghat hills, and there will everywhere be a great demand for labour in two or three weeks. The jowari is backward in some parts, but the green heads ought to be fit to eat all over the district by the end of the month. It is confidently believed, therefore, that there will be no necessity for relief in any form after the close of the present month.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—Blight has appeared in the jowari in some parts, and the present estimate of the crop is not as high as at first. The rabi has mostly come up, but it wants a little rain, and as there does not seem to be much chance of rain now, the prospects of the crop are not very good. There is every hope, however, of a bumper cotton crop. On the whole, there is no cause of anxiety except in respect to the rabi, which, however, bears a smaller proportion to the total cultivation this year than is usually the case.

Melghat.

1. *General character of relief works.*—The plough cattle and seed for the rabi have been issued, and a few heavy bullocks for carters, some young stock, and some cows and bulls are now under issue.

2. *Physical condition of people.*—Thanks to the ripening of the early crops (sawan, kútki, &c.), and also to the wild grass seeds, the condition of the people is good. Grain from Government main godowns has been selling off at about Ellichpur rates, and some weeding advances in grain have been given out, but the demand was limited, which tends to prove that the people are getting on fairly on their own resources.

3. *Agricultural prospects.*—The damage to the kharif, referred to in last report, is still difficult to estimate, but, curious to say, crops on high lands have, it is said, in some parts suffered most. On the whole, there is a fair crop, but an accurate estimate of proportion to a full crop cannot

be given. Late kutki (dhawri and kali) is being harvested on the high lands. The prospects of the rabi are poor owing to the absence of timely showers, but seed sown in low moist grounds has germinated well. The issue of Charitable Relief Fund rabi* seed provided for about 1,300 acres being sown up.

* Gram, wheat, masur dhal.

4. *Closure of works and relief in general.*—Works have been closed down throughout the taluq as sketched out in the September report. Village relief centres will be closed by 31st October, a few impotents and lone children being sent to the poor-houses, whence they will be gradually sent to their homes or to orphanages. The people at village relief centres were given 14–40 days' rations on leaving. The poor-house people will be similarly dealt with, a few being given money doles from Charitable Relief Fund. It is anticipated the poor-houses will be clear by about the 15th November.

Ordinary forest works are now in progress in all the Reserves, affording ample work for any who cannot get field work in the Melghat or in Berar.

Wun District.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village relief has been stopped. The poor-houses have also been stopped from 31st October, 1900, except two, one at headquarters and the other at Danoha.

Physical condition of the people.—Good.

Deaths (if any) from starvation.—Nil.

Food stocks.—Sufficient.

The crops are in good condition.

Famine relief works are not now required.

No. 116.

Remarks for Four Weeks ending 24th November, 1900.

Akola District.

Nil.

Amraoti District.

Private relief.—No private relief was given during the month under report as there was no need for it.

Village and poor-house relief.—All poor-houses, khichrikhanas, and gratuitous relief by village dole were closed from 17th November, 1900.

General character of relief works.—All relief works were closed from 1st November, 1900.

General condition of the people.—Generally satisfactory.

Basim District.

No relief works are required at present for this district.

Buldana District.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—There is a great demand for labour in fields for cotton picking, and also for cutting of jowari in parts of the district.

Changes in rates of wages and other matters.—Wages are now paid in grain, cotton, &c., and are considered preferable to the money wage.

No works are necessary for the present.

Ellichpur District.

All famine relief operations were brought to a close during the month. In the plain taluks kitchens were closed on the 3rd November, and those still requiring support were placed on the dole list till the 17th, when they were all dismissed to their homes with 10 days' valedictory dole in cash. On the same date the few paupers remaining in the poor-houses were sent home with 14 days' dole, except the feeble and sickly, who were transferred to the hospitals as in-patients.

There is now ample field labour available. The cotton crop is a bumper one in most parts of the plains, and women are earning 2 and 3 annas a day. The price of grain has gone down to 16 seers per rupee, and there is no longer any fear that any one will be unable to earn a living. The price of cotton is higher than usual, and the jowari crop is a good one; and the only drawback to the prosperity of the ryots lies in the fact that there is not enough moisture in the soil for the wheat, which will fail to a great extent if rain does not fall soon. The area under rabi is, however, smaller than usual, and the wheat crop is less important than it would be in ordinary years.

Wun District.

Famine relief works are not now required.

No. 117.

Remarks for Five Weeks ending 29th December, 1900.

Akola District.

The relief operations of all kinds in this district were closed on the 21st November, 1900.

The physical condition of the people was good, and no deaths from starvation were reported.

Food stock of grain was sufficient, and the condition and prospects of the affected areas were good. There was plenty of field labour, as cotton picking and cutting of *jowari* was in full swing. The average daily earnings of a woman amount to 4 annas and those of a man amount to 8 annas.

Amraoti District.

General condition and prospects of the affected area.—The general condition is good; the prospects are also decidedly good; the prices of food grains are falling.

Buldana District.

Private relief.—None, except some assistance from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund given under objects II. and IV. for orphans and weavers of Deulgaon Raja respectively.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village dole and poor-house relief were discontinued at the close of November, 1900.

Physical condition.—Generally improving.

Food stock.—Sufficient.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—Ample field labour was available. The cotton crop was a bumper one in the whole of the Malkapur Taluq and in parts of Chikhli and Mehker. The cotton commands a higher price than usual. *Jowari* was sold at 16 seers per rupee in the last week of December, 1900.

Changes in rates of wages and other matters.—Labourers are paid in kind owing to the harvest season, which is more advantageous to them than the usual cash wages.

No works are needed for the present.

MORTALITY IN DISTRICTS OF BULDANA AND BASIM.

No. 118.

Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 1088-*F., dated Simla, the* 26*th May*, 1900.

In acknowledging the receipt of the report on famine relief in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the month of April, 1900, which was forwarded under cover of the Commissioner's letter No. 597, dated the 14th May, I am directed to request that the Government of India may be furnished at an early date with information as to the cause of the very high rate of mortality recorded during the past two months in the districts of Buldana and Basim.

2. I am to add that the submission of a map with the monthly report may be discontinued as long as there is no change in the area at present affected by famine.

No. 119.

Letter from W. E. Jardine, Esq., Secretary for Berar to the Honourable the Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 283, *dated Hyderabad Residency, the* 5*th July*, 1900.

I am directed to refer to letter No. 1088, dated the 26th May, 1900, from the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture requesting information as to the high rate of mortality recorded during the months of March and April in the districts of Buldana and Basim.

2. In reply, I am to forward a copy of the Commissioner's camp letter, No. 1107, dated the 26th June, 1900, and of its enclosures, which contain the information required by the Government of India. The Resident thinks, with Mr. Crawford, that the difference between the death-rate in these two districts and that in Akola may properly be attributed, as the Sanitary Commissioner so strongly insists, to the influx in large number of famine-stricken immigrants from Hyderabad territory.

Enclosure in No. 119.

Letter from the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, to the Secretary for Berar to the Honourable the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 1107, dated the 26th June, 1900.

I have the honour to refer to your endorsement No. 2131, dated the 4th instant, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1088-F., dated the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the high rates of mortality recorded during the months of March and April last in the Districts of Buldana and Basim.

2. There has been considerable correspondence about the death-rates in these districts, and I thought it desirable to obtain from each of the two Deputy Commissioners, and the Sanitary Commissioner, a fresh report, complete in itself, for submission to the Government of India. I now forward the replies I have received from the Sanitary* Commissioner and the Deputy† Commissioner of Basim. The Deputy Commissioner of Buldana is ill, and his reply may be delayed.

* No. 448, dated the 23rd June, 1900.
† No. 4957, dated the 23rd June, 1900.

3. The death-rates in question (*per mille per mensem*) were as follows:—

District.	March.	April.
Buldana	9·0	7·1
Basim	6·2	9·6

It will be seen that the Sanitary Commissioner attributes the high mortality in both districts chiefly to "the enormous influx of emaciated and destitute people from His Highness's territory." In fact the Sanitary Commissioner enlarges on the opinion he expressed as to the cause of the high death-rate in February which was quoted in my letter No. 695-R, dated the 4th ultimo. The Deputy Commissioner of Basim refers, but less emphatically, to the same cause, and also mentions cholera and climate influences, especially in connection with young children.

4. I do not think there can be any doubt as to the fact that large numbers of destitute and famine-stricken people from Hyderabad territory have gone into the districts of Buldana and Basim. The famine area in the Hyderabad State, adjacent to Berar, is larger than that of Berar, and to judge by the numbers now on relief in Hyderabad, quite as severely affected. I do not wish to depreciate or criticise the relief measures which are now being carried on in Hyderabad territory under Mr. A. J. Dunlop, but it is well known that the commencement of such operations by His Highness the Nizam's Government was tardy and inadequate, as was reported to the Government of India by Sir T. C. Plowden in paragraph 10 of your office letter No. 73, dated the 14th February last. Under these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at if large numbers of destitute and starving people have found their way into the Buldana and Basim districts. And it must be remembered that for most people who have reached the stage of prolonged or chronic privation, recovery is hopeless, however ample the relief and careful the treatment they may then receive.

5. In May the Buldana death-rate fell to 5·5, but the Basim rate went up to a little over 12. The numbers on relief in Basim also increased greatly. It appears that the flow of immigration from Hyderabad has been diverted from Buldana to Basim. I may refer in this connection to the letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Basim which I forwarded with my endorsement No. 836-R., dated the 12th instant. I shall submit a further report with reference to the figures for May and June.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, to the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, No. 448, dated the 23rd June, 1900.

With reference to your camp endorsement No. 948 of June 11th, 1900, forwarding copy of extract paragraph 1 from letter No. 1088-F., dated May 26th, 1900, from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Resident, Hyderabad, and asking me for a report on the very high rate of mortality for the months of March and April in the districts of Buldana and Basim, I have the honour to report, for your information, that the very high mortality for March and April in the two districts named above, and which are contiguous to the territories of His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, I am of opinion, from personal observation, that it is in a great measure, or I might say entirely, due to the enormous influx of emaciated and destitute people from his Highness's territory into these two districts.

2. I have seen large numbers, I may say some thousands, of emaciated and destitute people who had come across the border in Basim and Buldana, and the nearer that one went to the border of His Highness's territory, a larger number of emaciated people, who appear to have undergone great privation, were to be seen: and the further from the border fewer this number.

3. In the same manner the condition of the inmates of poor-houses and dependants in relief camps were far worse and in some of them wretched in the extreme, showing that they had undergone very great privation before coming on relief in those poor-houses and relief camps along the border, than those at a distance.

4. I am of opinion that if it was not for this vast influx of destitute people, from 30 to 40 per cent., into Buldana and Basim, and who have helped to increase the death-rate in these two districts, something like, I think, 30 and 40 per cent., the mortality in these two districts would not have been any higher than in Akola.

5. The famine in Akola was every bit as bad as in Buldana and Basim, if not worse. Relief works, poor-houses, &c., were just the same in the three districts and nothing to choose between them; yet in Akola one did not see the vast number of emaciated people that one saw in Buldana and Basim districts, worse nearer the border of His Highness's territory; nor was the condition of the dependants on relief works and inmates of poor-houses in Akola district anything like so emaciated and destitute as the dependants on relief works and poor-houses in Basim and Buldana, especially those situated near the border of His Highness's territory.

6. As I have said before, this very high rate of mortality in Buldana and Basim, in my opinion, was due to the influx of the destitute and emaciated from His Highness's territory into these two districts. If it was not for this influx, the mortality among the permanent population of these two districts would not have been any higher than that of Akola district, where there was little foreign influx.

Annexure II.

Letter from the Deputy Commissioner, Basim District, to the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, No. 4957, dated the 23rd June, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your endorsement, Camp No. 947, dated the 11th June, 1900, forwarding an extract from paragraph 1 of the letter No. 1088-F., dated the 25th May, from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Resident at Hyderabad, calling for information as to the cause of the very high rate of mortality recorded during the past two months, *i.e.*, March and April, in this district.

2. The death-rate during March, 1900, (per mille per mensem), was 6·2, and the cause of this high death-rate as reported in this office letter No. 2172, dated 9th April, is to some extent immigration from the Moglai, and the mortality among infants and children from one to five, and persons over sixty years of age. The large number of deaths among children is due, I believe, in a large measure to exposure, and the majority of these deaths were among children under two years of age. To reduce infant mortality on works, sickly infants were given milk, nursing mothers whose milk was failing were fed in kitchens. Medical officers in charge of works were directed to pay special attention to the aged and infirm, and to prescribe extra and special diet to all in need of it. Six per cent. of the population were being gratuitously relieved in March.

3. The rise in the death-rate for April, 1900, is due, as reported in this office letter No. 3826, dated the 24th May, to some extent to cholera. The total number of reported deaths from this disease during the month being 468. Cholera was in three relief camps during the week ending 21st April, and in eight camps during the week ending 28th April. Heavy rain at the end of the month may have increased the number of deaths, and Moglai immigration of emaciated persons also accounts for a good part of the rise. The heat was considerable, and raised the mortality, especially among children, there being 1,044 deaths from fever alone; dysentery and diarrhœa were prevalent, 1,122 deaths being returned from bowel complaints. Eight per cent. of the population were on gratuitous relief during April.

AJMER—MERWARA.

MONTHLY REPORTS OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

Famine Statements not printed.

No. 120.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2254-F., dated Abu, the 23rd May, 1900.

In continuation of Mr. Martindale's letter No. 1873-F., dated the 19th April, 1900, forwarding the March Famine Statements A and B for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of April, 1900, together with Commissioner's covering letter No. 1265, dated the 16th May, 1900.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,699
February „	69,851	33,890	103,741
March „	77,747	31,259	109,006
April „	87,521	34,899	122,420

2. The marginal table compares the numbers on relief for the last nine months. The figures for April are the highest on record and show an increase of 12 per cent. as compared with those of last month. The ratio of increase also has more than doubled during the month under report.

3. The increase has been entirely confined to the Ajmer district, as will be seen from the following table :—

Detail.	Class.	Ajmer			Merwara.		
		March.	April.	Difference Per cent.	March	April.	Difference Per cent.
Works ...	Class A	1,014	1,588	+ 56	1,852	1,981	+ 7
	„ B	3,944	7,297	+ 85	17,011	15,265	− 10
	„ C	8,784	16,658	+ 89	26,535	23,815	− 10
	„ D	2,315	5,682	+145	9,158	6,095	− 33
	„ E	3,659	5,589	+ 52	3,275	3,551	+ 8
	Total	19,716	36,814	+ 86	58,031	50,707	− 14
Gratuitous Relief.	Dependants (infants) ...	1,446	2,517	+ 74	6,931	5,950	− 14
	Poor-houses	983	1,368	+ 39	660	706	+ 7
	Kitchens	4,214	6,658	+ 58	10,058	10,160	+ 1
	Village doles, &c. ...	1,642	1,933	+ 17	5,325	5,607	+ 5
	Total	8,285	12,476	+ 50	22,974	22,423	− 2
	Grand Total ...	28,001	49,290	+ 76	81,005	73,130	− 9

In column 2, I have followed the arrangement of Statement A, but the E class (adult dependants) more appropriately comes under the head of gratuitous relief. The chief increases in Ajmer have been amongst the diggers, carriers, working children and infants in arms, and the largest decreases in Merwara have been in the corresponding classes. But the transfer of Merwara labour cannot account for the whole of the increase in Ajmer; there must be other causes regarding which the Commissioner states an inquiry is being held. Pending the receipt of further particulars, it may be assumed that the striking increase in Ajmer is due to the growing distress, the conclusion of harvest operations, the recent increase in the wage scale, the transfer of Merwara labour, and the return of some of the emigrants who left the district in the autumn.

4. In Ajmer the satisfactory feature is that the gratuitous relief figures have not increased in the same ratio as those on works. If adult dependants are included in the gratuitous totals, the percentage of workers on units relieved was 57·5 in March, and rose to 63·5 in April. In Merwara, on the other hand, the percentage of workers on the total has fallen during April from 67·6 to 64·4.

5. From the remarks appended to Statements A (at H), the grain wage would appear to be the same all over both districts. But the rates of wage given in pice indicate that the 25 per cent. reduction is in force only in Merwara, and that the wage has been all over Ajmer and not only in part of the district as noted in Mr. Martindale's No. 1785-F., dated the 13th April, 1900, to your address. The cash rates of wage given in the body of the statement vary, but they are affected by the differences in the prices ruling in different tracts. It is unfortunate that, while the operations are being conducted according to the provisions of the North-Western Provinces Famine Code, the monthly statements prescribed by that Code have not been taken into use. The accompanying statements do not enable the expenditure of one month to be compared with that of any other. North-Western Provinces Form B-4 would supply the necessary statistics for this purpose.

File No. 28. Serial No. 12.

6. The Assistant Commissioner of Ajmer describes the condition of the people as average, and the Merwara report gives it as fair. The Commissioner states that the death-rate in both districts is "terribly high," but the April figures are not yet available. Cholera has doubtless claimed many victims, and I have had occasion during the month to impress upon all the local officials the urgent necessity of disinfecting all sources of water-supply.

7. No detailed account has yet been furnished of the results of the recent harvest, and the reports this month do not allude to it. Prices, however, showed a tendency to rise, while at the same time the import trade has largely declined. It is not quite clear, therefore, what the Assistant Commissioner Merwara exactly means by saying that "the import and export of grain is (*sic*) carried on an extensive scale." In Ajmer the net imports have fallen by nearly 72 per cent., from 177,589 maunds in March to 49,928 maunds in April.

8. The reports are silent about the condition of the cattle, the approximate yield of rabi straw, the results of the experimental import of dried fodder from the North-Westeru Provinces and the sufficiency or otherwise of the water-supply. In a separate letter the Commissioner has reported that he does not agree with the medical authorities that the police have neglected their duty *quâ* famine.

No. 121.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2511-*F., dated Abu, the* 16*th June,* 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2254-F., dated the 23rd May, 1900, enclosing the April famine statements A and B for the districts of Ajmer and

Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of May, 1900, together with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 1491-F., dated the 12th June, 1900.

2. The usual comparison of the numbers on relief since August 1899 is given in the margin. The numbers on works and gratuitous relief have increased by 12 per cent. during May. The increase in Ajmer has been slight. In Merwara it amounts to 20 per cent. The Ajmer figures do not agree with those reported for the closing week of the month under report, but may be assumed to be correct pending an answer to the Commissioner's enquiries. The result of his enquiries as to the large increase in the numbers on the Ajmer works in April has not yet been communicated, nor has any explanation been given of the marked rise in May on the Merwara works, but the opening of Civil Agency works near the people's homes may be a contributing cause to the latter.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous Relief.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,690
February „	69,851	33,890	103,741
March „	77,747	31,259	109,006
April „	87,521	34,899	122,420
May „	91,247	45,350	136,597

3. The following table shows the different proportions between the workers and the gratuitously relieved in the two districts :—

District.	On Works.			Gratuitously Relieved.				Total Non-workers: columns 3 and 8.		Grand Total: columns 2 and 9.
	Workers.	Dependants.		In Poor-houses.	In Kitchens.	In Villages, &c.	Total.	Actual.	Per cent. on col. 11.	
		Actual.	Per cent. on Total on Works							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ajmer ...	32,137	7,577	19	1,778	6,810	961	9,549	17,126	34·7	49,263
Merwara ...	59,110	8,465	12	525	12,663	6,571	19,759	28,224	32·3	87,334
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	29,308	—	—	136,597

These figures bring out to a certain extent the varying character of the relief given in the two districts. The proportion of dependants (who are both adults and infants) paid in cash is high in Ajmer, while the number of persons fed in kitchens and relieved at their own homes is comparatively small. In both districts the ratio of non workers is distinctly high. There has been little change in the character of the relief-works in progress anywhere. In Ajmer some petty works have been opened under civil agency in the municipal and cantonment areas, but owing to want of establishment the Commissioner does not propose to extend these. In Merwara, on the other hand, works of this description have been started in rural areas, and if they prove successful will be gradually increased. The scale of wages on works has been separately discussed in my letter No. 2459-F., dated 12th June, 1900, to your address.

4. The numbers on gratuitous relief, excluding adult dependants, have increased by only 5 per cent. At present over one-quarter of the total population are on relief of one kind or another, and nearly 5½ per cent. of the population are on purely gratuitous relief. In Ajmer the new poor-house at Deoli is mainly responsible for the large increase under this head. The figures under village doles and other charitable reliefs have fallen by more than one-half in the same district. This is somewhat difficult to account for, as with the approach of the rains a rise in this form of relief might have been looked for. In Merwara, although the number of women workers was largely increased, the figures for infants have fallen. As is but natural at this stage, persons fed in kitchens and relieved at their own homes have risen in number.

5. During the month the price of grain rose all over Ajmer-Merwara. The Commissioner reports that daily payments have come into force everywhere in Ajmer, but in Merwara they have not yet been generally introduced. This change of system must be beneficial, and the delay in its introduction, coupled with the difficulties experienced in controlling the grain sellers on the works, may in some measure have necessitated the high scale of wages approved of by Commissioner, as compared with the low scale obtaining in adjoining Native States where daily payments and a summary method of dealing with the bunnias have been found possible.

6. The chief feature of this month's famine history has been the cholera epidemic, regarding which the Commissioner promises a special report. The disease swept across from Jodhpur towards Mewar, increasing in virulence as it progressed, and the whole famine organisation was subjected to a severe strain. The Merwara works escaped lightly, but the works in the south-east of Ajmer felt the full force of the epidemic, and the officers mentioned by Mr. Tucker deserve great credit for the capable manner in which they dealt with the situation.

7. The condition of the people remains much the same, and, as in last month's report, may be said to vary from fair in Merwara to average in Ajmer. Cholera has grievously added to the death-rate, and from the Commissioner's remarks there would appear to have been some recrudescence of small-pox. The Assistant Commissioner of Merwara gives no details of the grain trade, but in Ajmer the net imports have more than doubled, although still only about one-third of the March total. The wells are running low in Beawar City and on some of the Ajmer works the water-supply is giving cause for anxiety. The Commissioner has kindly made satisfactory arrangements for the relief of returning emigrants, and gives, on the whole, a cheerful account of the persons who passed through to Merwar during the month. The Commissioner also reports that steps have been taken to insure the prompt issue of takavi loans and charitable grants. I suggested the adoption of special measures to ensure early payments and to prevent all risk of dishonest exactions by subordinate revenue officials, but Mr. Tucker considers that the ordinary district procedure will be sufficiently effectual.

No. 122.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2,867-F., *dated Abu, the* 18*th July*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2,511-F., dated the 16th June, 1900, enclosing the May Famine Statements A and B for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of June, 1900, together with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 1,678-F., dated the 11th July, 1900.

2. The marginal table gives the numbers on works and in receipt of gratuitous relief during the last eleven months. The number of workers, exclusive of the E class of adult dependants, has risen by over 5 per cent.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,690
February „	69,851	33,890	103,741
March „	77,747	31,259	109,006
April „	87,521	34,899	122,420
May „	91,247	45,350	136,597
June „	96,006	50,380	146,386

The great majority of the workers on petty projects under civil agency are confined to Merwara. Even there, however, they form only 2 per cent. of the total. The general character of the relief works, road construction, metal collection and tanks was not changed during the month. Work was also continued on the Nasirabad - Kekri proposed railway line. The weekly and fortnightly reports show a decrease in workers towards the end of June. The fluctuations during the month have been not inconsiderable, and the local officers have reported that the decline in numbers during the first week was partly due to the distribution of the charitable grants for the purchase of seed and cattle. The latest reports from Merwara show a satisfactory fall in the number of aliens on the works, although the Commissioner is apprehensive that the closing of work on the Mewar Section of the Baran-Marwar line may result in another rush of Mewaris on to the works in his district. Effectual measures have, however, I hope, been taken by the Darbar to prevent this.

3. The following table shows the different proportions between the workers and those gratuitously relieved separately for Ajmer and Merwara :—

	On Works	Gratuitously Relieved.								
		Dependants.						Total Non-workers. Columns 3 and 8.		
District	Workers.	Actual.	Per Cent. on Total on Works	In Poor-houses.	In Kitchens.	In Villages, &c.	Total, Columns 5 7.	Actual.	Per Cent. on Col. 11.	Grand Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ajmer ...	37,089	8,489	18·6	3,469	10,150	863	14,482	22,971	38·0	60,060
Merwara ...	58,917	9,177	13·4	613	11,438	6,181	18,232	27,409	31·7	86,326
Total ...	96,006	17,666	15·5	4,082	21,588	7,044	32,714	50,380	35·0	146,386

The proportion of dependants to the total number on works has fallen in Ajmer, but has risen in Merwara. As noticed by the Commissioner, the poor-house population in Ajmer has almost doubled. This is attributed partly to the increase in the number of returning emigrants (who are regularly relieved on the march) and partly to the large number of beggars who have gravitated to Ajmer. The numbers relieved in kitchens have increased considerably in Ajmer, but have fallen in Merwara. There has been little change in the number of people in receipt of doles at their own houses. In Ajmer the

percentage of non-workers to the total on relief has risen during the month from 34·7 to 38·0, while in Merwara it has remained steady. Over the whole district 34·0 per cent. of the people on relief do no work in return for their support. At the close of the month nearly 27 per cent. of the total population were in receipt of relief of one kind or another, and 9·2 per cent. received purely gratuitous relief as compared with 5·4 in the preceding month.

4. Distress became more acute during June, but no doubt cholera, which still lingers in Merwara, is partly responsible for the higher death-rate. The surviving cattle further deteriorated, as the small stores of bhusa secured at the rabi harvest became exhausted. The water-supply has held out better than was anticipated with the help of a few local showers. Grain prices showed a tendency to rise owing to the delay in the arrival of the monsoon. The import trade continued brisk, while the exports of hides have fallen off. The statements submitted and the Commissioner's review thereon contain no allusion to the distribution of takavi loans and charitable gifts for the purchase of seed and bullocks, although there is reason to think that these operations formed a distinct feature of the famine history of the month.

No. 123.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 3110-F., dated Abu, the 15th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2867-F., dated the 18th July, 1900, enclosing the June famine statements A. and B. for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of July, 1900, together with the Commissioner's covering letter, No. 1836-F., dated the 9th August, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief of all kinds during the last twelve months are brought together in the marginal table. The grand total of the numbers on relief given in paragraph 2 of the covering letter is only 102,610 as the Commisssioner has evidently forgotten to include among the Ajmer workers, the 289 persons employed on petty works under Civil Agency. The numbers relieved by the Istimrardars (3,806 works and 837 gratuitous) have not been included in the above totals. The Ajmer statistics do not agree with those of the weekly relief statement for the period ending the 28th July, but are the same as those given in the fortnightly progress return as will be seen from the following table :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	1,16,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,690
February „	69,851	33,890	1,03,741
March „	77,747	31,259	1,09,006
April „	87,521	34,899	1,22,420
May „	91,247	45,350	1,36,597
June „	96,006	50,380	1,46,386
July „	61,187	41,712	1,02,899

Details.	Weekly Relief Statement.	Fortnightly Progress Return.	Monthly Relief Statement.
Workers	11,949	12,807	12,807
Dependants	2,541	2,566	2,566
Gratuitous lists	14,506	14,644	14,644
Total	28,996	30,017	30,017

In a recent communication the Commissioner reported that the figures in the fortnightly progress return are accurate. There is no discrepancy between the different periodical returns received from Merwara. In the latter District the Civil Agency works were closed altogether during the month, while in Ajmer they were greatly contracted.

3. Over the whole of Ajmer-Merwara the numbers on works have fallen by more than one-third, the total for July being lower than any recorded since September, 1899. But the decrease in Merwara (13 per cent.) is very slight compared with that in Ajmer (66 per cent.). As pointed out by Mr. Tucker, the famine has been less acute in Ajmer, and the people have not become so accustomed to the system of State relief.

The number of works in Ajmer was reduced by one. Metal consolidation on the roads has taken the place of metal collection. In Merwara there does not appear to have been any change in the character of the works. The Sunday wage has been abolished and the ordinary wages will probably be soon further reduced, at least in Merwara. I have suggested to the Commissioner, the advisability of encouraging the people to return to their fields by the introduction of one or other of several measures, such as a stiffening of the tasks, the intermediate system of payment, making a present of their tools to those who are willing to leave, and so on. The Commissioner has impressed upon all officers connected with famine relief the necessity for carefully watching the condition of the people in the villages until the crops ripen, so all risk will be avoided.

4. The numbers on gratuitous relief have fallen by 16 per cent. The poor-houses are the only branch which records an increase. This is most marked in Ajmer, and in the last fortnightly report is explained by the Commissioner as due to the large proportion of wanderers from Native States. Out of 3,400, the total in the four institutions during the last week in July, 1,967, or 57 per cent., are returned as aliens. These are now being gradually drafted back to their own States. One curious feature of the statistics this month is, that while the drop in the works' figures in Merwara is so slight in comparison with Ajmer, the gratuitous figures have fallen by only 11 per cent. in the former compared with nearly 25 per cent. in the latter. The following table shows the different proportions between the workers and those gratuitously relieved, separately, for Ajmer and Merwara:—

District.	On Works.	Dependants.			Gratuitously Relieved.			Total Non-workers, Columns 3 and 8.		Grand Total.
	Workers.	Actual.	Per Cent. on Total on Works	In Poor-houses.	In Kitchens.	In Villages	Total. Columns 5 7.	Actual.	Per Cent. on Col. 11	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ajmer ..	12,807	2,566	20·0	4,894	9,089	661	14,644	17,210	57·3	30,017
Merwara ...	48,380	8,606	17·7	899	11,340	3,657	15,896	24,502	33·6	72,882
Total ...	61,187	11,172	18·2	5,793	20,429	4,318	30,540	41,712	40·5	102,899

The proportion of dependants to the total number on works has risen slightly in both districts. In Ajmar the percentage of non-workers to the total on relief has risen during the month from 38 to 57, and in Merwara only from 31 to 33. This means that over the whole district two-fifths of the people do no work in return for their support.

5. The monsoon broke on the 8th July, and gave good rain over both districts, the heaviest falls being recorded in the south of Ajmer, and the lightest in the villages round about head-quarters. There was a break from the 14th to the 24th inclusive, during which the hot westerly winds returned and gave cause for apprehension. Since the 25th, however, there has been good general rain, and should the monsoon continue all cause for anxiety will have passed. The tanks are nearly full and the water level in the wells has risen. A sum of Rs. 2,34,162 was distributed in takavi loans as soon as the monsoon burst. The distribution from the charitable fund for the purchase of seed and cattle had been begun in Merwara shortly before. The arrangements for distribution appear to have been carefully made under the personal supervision of the Assistant Commissioner and Famine Officers. The only doubt in regard to this branch of relief operations is where the people are to find cattle to purchase or hire.

I am glad to see that the Commissioner in paragraph 9 of his letter states that the cattle which were taken away by their owners during the famine are coming back "in fair numbers," but in no part of the province have I yet heard of dealers or graziers bringing in animals for sale. Judging from the difficulties officers have had in buying cattle for Native States in May and June there would not appear to be many left in this part of India which their present owners are prepared to put into the market. The condition of the people is described as fair, but the death-rate is abnormally high. Prices show a slight tendency to fall, but they will not approach normal conditions until the kharif harvest is assured, and the rabi sowings have been completed. The export trade in hides continues to decline.

No. 124.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 3,306-F., dated Abu, the 15th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 3,110-F., dated the 15th August, 1900, enclosing the July famine statements, A. and B., for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of August, 1900, together with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 1,991-F., dated 12th September, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief of all kinds during the last thirteen months are brought together in the marginal table. The aggregate of workers has been obtained by adding the totals of column 11 in the famine statement of each district, excluding, however, the total of column 10 (adult dependants) in the Ajmer statement, as well as the total on Istimrari works. There has been a decrease of 24,151, or 39 per cent., in the number of persons on works, which is now the lowest on record for the past year. In paragraph 2 of the Commissioner's covering letter the decrease is shown to be 26,661. This discrepancy is partly due to errors in calculation in the Commissioner's letter, and partly to the confusing

Months.	Works	Gratuitous.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,699
February „	69,851	33,890	103,741
March „	77,747	31,259	109,006
April „	87,521	34,899	122,420
May „	91,247	45,350	136,597
June „	96,006	50,380	146,386
July „	61,187	41,712	102,899
August „	37,036	31,367	68,403

system followed in compiling the statement which splits up dependants between "works" and "gratuitous" according as they are relieved by cash or in kitchens. The errors in calculation are two. First, as pointed out in last month's report, the Commissioner omitted to include among the Ajmer workers the 289 persons employed in July on petty works, whereas he has included the August total, 293, in the table in paragraph 2 of the appended report. At the same time, however, he has repeated in that report the incomplete total for July. Again, the total number of Merwara workers in July is given at 49,381, whereas the true total was 49,981, *vide* the correspondence forwarded with this office, No. 3,110–F., dated the 15th August, 1900. By the end of August all the works in Ajmer had been closed. In Merwara, however, where the decrease on works was under 29 per cent., there remained upwards of 35,000 workers, the majority of whom were women and children. The remarks at (*c*), on the back of the Merwara statement, point to no changes having occurred in the character of the works during the last four months, but the note is misleading. Metal collection has given place to metal consolidation on roads, and the doubling of the railway embankment also affords employment to a large number of people.

3. The figures for dependants are, as mentioned above, confusing. While Ajmer returns 82 adult dependants under class E, this column is blank in the Merwara statement, while last month the similar column showed 1,601. No explanation has been given of the change, although the fortnightly statements show a total of 4,181 persons in this class. The total of column 14, kitchens, in the Ajmer return does not agree with that submitted with the progress return for the fortnight ending on the same date, and the Executive Engineer has been asked for an explanation. In the meantime, however, if the figures in the marginal table above are accepted as correct, there has been a decrease in the gratuitous lists of nearly one quarter.

4. The table given in paragraph 2 of Commissioner's covering letter should, therefore, be amended as follows:—

District.	Month.	Workers.	Dependants.	Poor-houses.	Kitchens.	Village Doles, &c.	Total.
Ajmer	July ...	14,687	686	4,894	9,089	661	30,017
	August ...	1,547	72	2,528	6,630	1,003	11,780
	Difference + or −	−13,140	−614	−2,366	−2,459	+342	−18,237
Merwara ...	July ...	49,981	7,005	899	11,340	3,657	72,882
	August ...	35,571	5,251	827	11,585	3,389	56,623
	Difference + or −	−14,410	−1,754	−72	+245	−268	−16,259
Total ...	Difference + or −	−27,550	−2,368	−2,438	−2,214	+ 74	−34,496

The total number of relief units has thus fallen by 34,496, or 33½ per cent., and not by 34,147, as stated in the Commissioner's letter. The grand total is the lowest on record since September, 1899. The main facts brought out by these figures are the rapid contraction of works and the small fluctuations in the numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief. The following table shows the

different proportions between the workers and non-workers separately for Ajmer and Merwara :—

District.	On Works.			Gratuitously Relieved.						
	Workers.	Dependants.		In Poor-houses.	In Kitchens.	In Villages.	Total, Columns 5–7.	Total Non-workers : Columns 3 to 8.		Grand Total.
		Actual.	Per Cent. on Total on Works.					Actual.	Per Cent. on Col. 11.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ajmer ...	1,465	154	9·6	2,528	6,630	1,003	10,161	10,315	87·5	11,780
Merwara ...	35,571	5,251	12·8	827	11,585	3,389	15,801	21,052	37·1	56,623
Total ...	37,036	5,405	12·7	3,355	18,215	4,392	25,962	31,367	45·8	68,403

The proportion of dependants to workers has fallen everywhere. In Ajmer the percentage of non-workers is very high, owing to the closing of the works ; and in Merwara it has risen from 33 to 37 per cent.

5. The Merwara people show a great disinclination to leave the works, and, as anticipated in last month's report, the wages have been lowered and discipline has been made more strict. The Commissioner reports that he has sanctioned the reintroduction of the ticket system. Although this has been done with a view to the exclusion of foreigners, I regret that it should have been thought necessary to adopt an expedient which puts into the hands of the patwaris an unjustifiable amount of power. One of the special famine officers has left the district, and the extra staff has been otherwise reduced. Even if the Assistant Commissioner and his assistants spend their whole time on tour checking the issue of tickets, there is certain to be no inconsiderable amount of fraud. The measures already suggested to the Commissioner are, I think, sufficient in themselves, if thoroughly carried out, to bring operations to a close. To make the patwari the original arbiter of distress, is to put him in a position which, to say the least of it, he has neither the judgment nor the moral strength to support. The Commissioner is being addressed on the subject.

6. Both districts received ample showers during the month. The arrears in kharif sowings were partly made up, and ploughings for the rabi have been carried on as vigorously as the limited resources of the people in the way of draught power allowed. Altogether the general agricultural outlook, hopeful as it was at the end of July, has undergone still further improvement. The Commissioner continues to report the gradual return of some of the cattle which left the district last year, but he is unable to give any estimate of their numbers. From inquiries made in Ajmer during my stay there, there is reason to think that the total will not go far towards helping out the situation. The condition of the people has improved, and the death-rate has fallen. Prices continue to fall slowly, but it will be some time before the market recovers its normal tone. The Commissioner reports that " large imports of grain have continued during the month " in Ajmer, but the following returns furnished to this office of rail-borne food-grains show that imports have considerably decreased :—

Month.	Exports.	Imports.	Net Imports.
July	20,075	163,395	143,320
August	7,098	28,989	21,891

This remarkable decline of 84 per cent. indicates that the local dealers have formed a favourable estimate of the outturn of the approaching harvest.

7. I have the honour to express my regret for the delay in the submission of the enclosed correspondence, but it was received only on the evening of the 13th September from Ajmer.

No. 125.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 3526-F., dated Abu, the 24th October, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3306-F., dated the 15th September, 1900, submitting the August monthly famine statements A. and B. for the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, I have the honour to forward the corresponding statements for the month of September, together with the Commissioner's covering letter No. 2099-F., dated 18th October, 1900.

2. The usual table of relief figures is given in the margin. There has been a decrease of 47,745, or nearly 70 per cent., in the numbers on relief of all kinds in both districts, which is now the lowest recorded for the last fourteen months. In the Ajmer District all relief works were closed by the 29th September, with the exception of two Civil Agency works which the Commissioner reports remained open through a misunderstanding of the orders issued by him for their discontinuance. The number of persons on these works was, however, only 514. In Merwara the numbers on relief have fallen by 39,633, and all works were closed on the 13th October. This little district has suffered from nearly two years' drought which has been very demoralizing to the inhabitants. The forthcoming kharif harvest is, however, promising, and the prospects of the rabi are also good.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
August 1899	26,063	3,516	29,579
September „	46,056	6,309	52,365
October „	71,340	8,898	80,238
November „	79,820	20,083	99,903
December „	88,892	27,172	116,064
January 1900	74,119	22,580	96,699
February „	69,851	33,890	103,741
March „	77,747	31,259	109,006
April „	87,521	34,899	122,420
May „	91,247	45,350	136,597
June „	96,006	50,380	146,386
July „	61,187	41,712	102,859
August „	37,036	31,367	68,403
September „	7,672	12,986	20,658

3. The physical condition of the people is reported to be fair in both districts, but malarial fever, which, I regret to say, prevails to a serious extent just now throughout Rajputana, is causing considerable mortality.

4. Prices continue to fall, and grain imports are mostly re-exported into the neighbouring Native States. The present correspondence will close the series of reports that have been submitted to Government of India since November, 1898.

SCALE OF FAMINE WAGES.

No. 126.

Letter from the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2459-F., dated Abu, the 12th June, 1900.

In continuation of correspondence ending with Mr. Martindale's letter No. 1785-F., dated the 13th April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the correspondence marginally noted regarding the scale of famine wages in Ajmer-Merwara. The reply of the Commissioner to the latest communication from this office will be submitted on receipt.

1. From Famine Commissioner to Commissioner, Ajmer, No. 1831-F., dated 17th April, 1900.
2. From Commissioner to Chief Commissioner, No. 986-F., dated 18th April, 1900, and enclosures.
3. From Famine Commissioner to Commissioner, Ajmer, telegram No. 1886-F., dated 23rd April, 1900.
4. From Commissioner, Ajmer, to First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor General, No. 1144-F., dated 4th May, 1900, and enclosures.
5. From Superintending Engineer to Commissioner, Ajmer, No. 2564, dated 29th May, 1900.
6. From Commissioner, Ajmer, to Superintending Engineer, No. 1433-F., dated 1st June, 1900, and enclosures.
7. From Commissioner to Famine Commissioner, No. 1348-F., dated 26th May, 1900, and enclosures.
8. From Famine Commissioner to Commissioner, No. 2458-F., dated 12th June, 1900.

2. As far as can be gathered from the general terms in which the information is supplied by the Commissioner, the instructions conveyed by Mr. Martindale in his No. 1831-F. of 17th April were never carried out, although the Commissioner now admits that the labourers whose low physique led him to abolish the 25 per cent. reduction were recently arrived foreigners. The concluding sentence of paragraph 11 of Mr. Martindale's No. 1385-F., dated 13th April, was therefore written under a misapprehension of the facts. As far as I can judge there has been no reduction of the code scale of wages in the Ajmer district during April and May, and although the reduction in Merwara has varied, it has rarely amounted to 25 per cent. Until, however, the report called for from the Commissioner is received it is impossible to state accurately what the wage scale is in either district.

Enclosure 1 No. 126.

Letter from the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 1831-F., dated the 17th April, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 870-F., dated the 4th April, 1900, in which you report that owing to deterioration of the physique of certain classes of labourers on the relief works in the Kekri circle of Ajmer since the reduction of the famine scale of wages by 25 per cent. was introduced, you had cancelled the 25 per cent. reduction not only in the Kekri circle, but throughout the whole of the Ajmer district, and had authorised the grant of the minimum wage on Sundays in both Ajmer and Merwara. You had also increased the number of civil kitchens in the Ajmer district.

2. It does not appear clear from the correspondence forwarded with your letter that the people who were previously in good condition had lost physique

* *See* page 487 of Command Paper 205, presented in 1900.

since the reduced wage was introduced. On the contrary it seems probable that the foreigners and the women and children belonging to the men on the Thakurs' estates formed the majority of the sufferers. They had presumably come comparatively recently on to the khalsa works. The geographical position of the Kekri circle, which is readily accessible, not only to the villagers of the Ajmer Thakurates, but also to the destitute subjects of four adjacent Native States, is, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, an important factor in considering the causes of the deterioration among some of the people on the Kekri works.

3. The Chief Commissioner, however, approves of the remedial orders you had issued in anticipation of your personal visit to the Kekri circle and your investigation of the facts reported. A further communication from you upon the subject, giving the results of your enquiry, is awaited.

4. It is understood that daily payments and the Sunday wage have been generally introduced throughout both districts. These orders have Mr. Martindale's cordial concurrence, but he is of opinion that where daily payments and a Sunday wage are given the 25 per cent. reduction on the North-Western Provinces scale should for the present be retained except perhaps in the Kekri circle unless the labourers there have already recovered physique.

5. It would be interesting to learn whether the regular Ajmer labourers, who have been some time on the works at Kekri and elsewhere, have deteriorated, or whether this falling off is generally confined to recent immigrants from Native States and istimrari villages.

6. In conclusion I am to say that the Chief Commissioner shares your views regarding the desirability of postponing the introduction of a minimum wage, and also your apprehension that the condition of the people on the works in the south-east of the Ajmer district has been inadequately watched and tardily reported. The arrangements for controlling the operations of the grain dealers on the works appear to have been defective.

Enclosure 2 in No. 126.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 986-F., dated the 18th April, 1900.

In continuation of correspondence ending with my letter No. 870-F., dated the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that I returned from a tour of inspection over the Kekri circle works on the 16th instant.

2. The measures described in my letter cited above and in its enclosures have been successful in great measure, and the condition of the labourers is not unsatisfactory as a whole. The famine hospitals are largely attended and contain many weakly children who are on special diet.

3. The price of grain reported on these works being now 11 seers, I have restored the wage to that allowed on the 11 seer rate, giving however to the C class the wage allowed for diggers-women. The working women still largely outnumber the diggers and are not employed solely on carrying work and deserve special treatment which it would not be prudent to withdraw. Full tasks are now being generally performed and the reduction of the number of the gangs to 60, and the placing of many of the very numerous E class in special gangs will further improve the administration of the works and tend to prevent deterioration in condition.

Enclosure 3 in No. 126.

Telegram from the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 1886-F., dated 23rd April, 1900.

Your No. 986-F. of 18th April, paragraph 3. Chief Commissioner presumes adoption of 11 seer rate and raising of C class wage are confined to Kekri circle. Please note on this in your reply to my 1831-F. of 17th April and also give wage basis and scale of wages now actually drawn in the various relief circles.

Enclosure 4 in No. 126.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 1144-F., dated 4th May, 1900.

I have the honour to reply to your letter No. 1311-F., dated the 17th March, 1900, the delay in the disposal of which I regret.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter under disposal I enclose copies of letters Nos. 2398, dated the 23rd ultimo, from the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division, and 1538, dated the 2nd April, from the Executive Engineer, Merwara Division, with the Assistant Commissioner's endorsement No. 257-F., dated April 6th. The officers who are in direct charge of and in touch with our works are all of opinion that our tasks are ample and cannot be increased. I agree entirely with them. The correspondence regarding the recent loss of condition among the workers in the Kekri circle will be found to further confirm the conclusion. I do not think that the fact that larger tasks are prescribed in the North-Western Provinces affects the question; local problems must be solved locally. The North-Western Provinces labourer may be, and probably is, a man of better physique than the people here, and he may be a more intelligent workman—the scale of wages points to this last conclusion. Our people are far from intelligent and very inert.

3. With regard to your paragraph 4, I would observe that there was no raising of the children's wage by two chittacks in October, 1899. The children before October were children between 8 and 12 years, and their wage was eight chittacks. In October children between 10 and 14 on the works received 10 chittacks. But that is not an increase of wage for the same children; the age was raised.

4. With reference to your paragraph 5, I have the honour to say that the figures therein referred to were taken from the figures on the last day of the month in question. A tabular statement is supplied accordingly.

Annexure I.

Number of Persons in Receipt of Relief in Ajmer-Merwara between October, 1899, and January, 1900.

Month.	Number on Last Day of the Month.								Grand Total of columns 4, 8 and 9.	Population of District.	
	On Works.			Gratuitous Relief.				Miscellaneous.		Actual.	Percentage of columns 10 and 11.
	Workers.	Dependants.	Total.	In Village.	In Kitchens.	In Poor-houses.	Total.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	19	10	11	12
Ajmer.											
October, 1899	24,115	361	24,476	350	—	153	503	1,018	25,997	422,359	6·1
November, 1899	21,541	1,358	22,899	347	3,554	309	4,210	624	27,733	—	6·5
December, 1899	31,266	2,011	33,277	417	6,775	937	8,129	889	42,295	—	10·01
January, 1900	14,976	1,063	16,039	487	7,342	1,243	9,072	852	25,963	—	6·1
Merwara.											
October, 1899	47,225	4,386	51,611	1,810	3,341	—	5,151	—	56,762	119,999	47·3
November, 1899	56,279	4,897	61,176	2,839	6,154	—	8,993	—	70,169	—	58·4
December, 1899	53,626	4,835	58,461	4,410	8,631	—	13,041	—	71,502	—	59·5
January, 1900	54,343	5,901	60,244	4,353	8,303	—	12,656	—	72,900	—	60·7

Annexure II.

Letter from the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 2398, *dated* 23*rd April*, 1900.

In reply to your endorsement No. 711-F. of 19th March, 1900, I have the honour to inform you that I consulted the Assistant Commissioner with reference to the tasks in force on relief works in this division, and he says :—

"The tasks are light for diggers in good condition, but I do not think it would be prudent to increase them so long as physique remains as at present."

2. Personally, I am still of opinion that the tasks exacted are sufficient, and the statements given below for the weeks ending 17th March, 1900, and 14th April, 1900, are, I consider, proof of this.

Week ending 17*th March*, 1900.

——	Gangs Fined for Short Work.		Percentage.
Ajmer Subdivision			
Total number of gangs employed ...	775	84	10
Of this Untra supplied	378	63	16
Nasirabad Subdivision.			
Total gangs	884	392	44
Of this Kekri-Sawar Road supplied ...	280	99	35
Nasirabad-Kekri Railway	328	219	66

Week ending 14*th April*, 1900.

——	Gangs Fined for Short Work.		Percentage.
Ajmer Subdivision.			
Total gangs	1,091	203	19
Of this Untra Subdivision supplied ...	354	65	19
Nasirabad Subdivision.			
Total gangs	1,665	484	29
Kekri-Sawar Road	589	134	23
Nasirabad-Kekri Railway	572	159	28

Annexure III.

Letter from the Executive Engineer, Merwara Special Division, to the Assistant Commissioner, Merwara, No. 1538, *dated* 2*nd April*, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of No. 712 of the 19th ultimo, from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, forwarding copy of paragraph 2 from the 1st Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General's letter, dated 16th March, 1900, to his address, and asking me to report, in consultation with you, whether it is not possible to revise the scale of task fixed for the famine labour of this district.

2. I have consulted my subdivisional officers at Beawar, Todgarh, and Makrera, and they are all unanimous in saying that no increase in the task can be effected, in which opinion I entirely agree.

No. 257-*F.*, *dated* 6*th April*, 1900, *endorsed by the Assistant Commissioner, Merwara.*

Copy forwarded to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, for information, saying that the Assistant Commissioner, Merwara, agrees with the opinion of the Executive Engineer, Merwara Special Division.

Enclosure 5 in No. 126.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, in the Public Works Department, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 2564-S., dated 29th May, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 1285-F. of the 17th May, 1900, and in reference to its accompaniment, letter No. 2343, dated the 11th idem, from the Executive Engineer, Merwara Special Division, on the subject of the calculation of famine wages, I am desired to reply as follows :—

2. It is noted that a reduction of 25 per cent. in the wages is in force. The Executive Engineer's method of calculating this reduction may be correct, but works out wrongly in its results. The attached tabular statement, No. I., compares the Executive Engineer's figures, as entered in his letter, with the correct ones as worked out here.

3. From the statement it would be seen that Executive Engineer's figures are too high almost in all cases, due to his not having taken the next higher figures for values involving ½ seer and over.

4. I am to point out that as the results of his mistake a larger sum is being paid in wages than the people are entitled to, and that the Government thereby suffers for a considerable loss. For instance, taking the figures in the D-III. return of week ending 28th April, the results work out as in attached tabular statement (No. II.), showing a possible excess in one work of Rs. 3,455, equivalent to Rs. 14,820 per mensem.

5. I am, therefore, to request that in future the method prescribed by the Famine Commission, paragraph 459, page 276, of their report may be strictly adhered to in calculating a 25 per cent. wage reduction. and that the Executive Engineer may be instructed to observe the correct wage rate as soon as possible. Both Executive Engineers are being addressed separately by the Superintending Engineer on this subject.

Annexure 1.

No. I.

Actual Prices of Grain.	Reduced Prices.		Wages of Different Classes in Pice.						Remarks.
			B—19 chittaks.		C—14 chittaks.		D—10 chittaks.		
	Less 25 per cent.	Resulting Price for Fixing Wages.	By North-Western Provinces Code.	By Executive Engineer.	By North-Western Provinces Code.	By Executive Engineer.	By North-Western Provinces Code.	By Executive Engineer.	
11 seers ...	+ 2·75	13·75 (14 taken.)	5	6	4	4	3	3	With half seer or more the next highest number should be taken.
10 seers ...	+ 2·5	12·5 (13 taken.)	6	6	4	5	3	3	
8½ seers ...	+ 2·1	10·6 (11 taken.)	7	8	5	6	4	4	

No. II.

Class.	Makrera = 11 seers. Reduced Wage = 14.					Beawar Subdivision = 10 seers. Reduced Wage = 13.					Todgarh Subdivision = 8½ seers. Reduced Wage = 11.					Total Amount.		Remarks.
	Total Number of Units for the Week.	Correct Wages.		Executive Engineer's Wages on 13 seers.		Total of Units for the Week.	Correct Wages.		Executive Engineer's Wages on 12 seers.		Total of Units for the Week.	Correct Wages.		Executive Engineer's Wages on 10 seers.		Correct Wages.	Executive Engineer's Wages.	
		Wage in Pice.	Amount.	Wage in Pice.	Amount.		Wage in Pice.	Amount.	Wage in Pice.	Amount.		Wage in Pice.	Amount.	Wage in Pice.	Amount.			
			Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.			
B includes A	22,005	5	1,719	6	2,063	44,883	6	4,208	6	4,208	57,770	7	6,319	8	7,221	12,246	13,492	
C	28,829	4	1,802	4	1,802	67,207	4	4,200	5	5,250	74,210	5	5,798	6	6,957	11,800	14,009	
D	10,526	3	493	3	493	17,573	3	824	3	824	17,420	4	1,089	4	1,089	2,406	2,406	
	—	—	4,014	—	4,358	—	—	9,232	—	10,282	—	—	13,206	—	15,267	26,452	29,907	
												Excess paid during week = 3,455 × 4 = 14,820 per month.						

Enclosure 6 in No. 126.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, in the Public Works Department, No. 1433-*F., dated* 1*st June*, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2564-S., dated the 29th May, 1900.

2. I am afraid that I have not made myself clear on the matter of wages. We did introduce a reduction of 25 per cent. or thereabouts last February. But it is not absolutely correct to say that a reduction of 25 per cent. is in force. Prices on given works vary from time to time, and there is no precise and constant proportion of reduction. I have divided the Merwara district into three wage-groups, and the Ajmer district into two. In these we pay at present wages on the 13, 12, and 10 seer scale, respectively, in Merwara, and on the 12 and 10 seer scale in Ajmer. The wages given are those given on page 136 of the North-Western Provinces Code (revised edition of September, 1899) ; the grain equivalents fixed under that code include all our classes.

3. The effect of the wages is under constant watch and attention. The condition of the workers has to be watched as well as the course of prices. In one wage-group (the Kekri circle) there has been considerable correspondence on this subject with the Famine Commissioner, and on these works I am now giving the full wage (the 10 seer wage) which means practically that there is no reduction at all. As I understand your letter I should apply the 13 seer wage to these works, and this is a course which would be adverse to the opinion of every officer who has recently visited those works, including myself. In my opinion the adoption of that course would be most unfortunate. Again, were the scale given in Enclosure 1 to your letter to be adopted in Todgarh, where for month after month the condition of the labourers has been reported to be indifferent, I think that a result of a similar kind has to be anticipated. I may explain that I have constantly been called on to check a tendency to increase wages recommended by the district and departmental officers, and on one occasion incurred a considerable responsibility in resisting pressure (rightly as it proved) of a peculiarly strong kind.

4. There is no immutable law of 25 per cent. reduction. A large margin of discretion is allowed in either direction under the rule (section 105-A. North-Western Provinces Code). I have declared the prices on which wages are to be calculated, and these prices have been reported to the Chief Commissioner. The Executive Engineers have not fixed the scales of wages ; these have been fixed, or rather applied, by me. The Executive Engineers have little responsibility in the matter if they have followed my instructions, and I have no reason for thinking that they have done otherwise. There has been, I think, no loss to Government under the wages as fixed by me. On the other hand, I think that, especially in Merwara where inspection is inadequate, there would be a great danger of considerable loss if the Executive Engineers fixed their own wages on the different works, even within the limits that your letter prescribes. The works have been grouped with reference to prices and wages as accurately and suitably as is practicable, and the reductions now taken are as much as the people can bear.

5. I have the honour to request that these papers may be placed before the Chief Commissioner in the Famine Department, and that I may receive further instructions. The purport of the communication made to the Executive Engineers by the Superintending Engineer, referred to in your letter under reply, has not been conveyed to me. As the regulation of wages is a matter specially within the Commissioner's province, subject of course to the Chief Commissioner's instructions, I assume that the Executive Engineers have been instructed not to modify the wages now given without a reference to me, and I have so instructed them.

It will, I think, be inconvenient if instructions as to wages issue through more than one channel. I am afraid that if the Executive Engineers apply the scales quoted in the enclosure to your letter, there will be not only a good deal of confusion, but that (as I have stated elsewhere) the results are likely to be most unfortunate. If people are driven off the works by low wages at the end of the famine, I think it not likely that wandering will largely set in, necessarily followed by starvation cases, and that the peace of the country will be seriously disturbed. The question is one of vital importance to which I invite the earliest attention. It seems to me that the provisions of article 459 of the Famine Commission Report have been followed in this matter They are embodied in the sections of the code already referred to. My recommendation is that for the reasons which have been adduced in this letter, the rates of wages therein quoted may continue to be given, and that the instructions contained in your letter under reply may be withdrawn.

7. Colonel Wyllie will, I am sure, understand that this recommendation is prompted solely by the wish to place before him the considerations on which the wages at present existing are fixed. If it be his wish that the wages be lowered, every effort will be made to carry his wish to a successful issue. I have not had time to make a reference on your letter to the various district officers, but I believe I am right in saying that every one of them would be opposed to a further cutting down.

Enclosure 7 in No. 126.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Famine Commissioner in Rajputana, Mount Abu, No. 1358-F., dated the 26th May, 1900.

I have the honour to refer to your letter, No. 1831-F., dated the 17th ultimo, on the subject of the condition of the works in the Kekri circle, and in this connection to enclose copy of letter No. 3125-F., dated the 18th instant, addressed to me by the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division. I believe that the opinions expressed by Mr. Manners Smith, and endorsed by the Assistant Commissioner, are substantially correct.

2. I have the honour to report further that in the second week of May a serious outbreak of cholera in an epidemic form broke out on these works. Mr. Manners Smith, with Mr. Peacock, Special Famine Officer, reached the works when the epidemic was raging; they were followed shortly by Captain Black, the Famine Medical Officer, and the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Edwards. The works were disorganised: some of the officials had been attacked by the disease, and there had been many deaths among the labourers and in the villages in that part of the country. A number of the labourers had left the works in the panic. In the temporary disorganisation and scare the prompt burial of the dead had been, I have been informed, not always carried out. The measures taken by the officers named have restored confidence, and the epidemic has subsided, though until quite recently cholera has been interfering with the Nek Chal work at Deoli.

3. The price of grain at Kekri having risen to, approximately, 10 seers, and the price on the works in the circle being 9 seers or thereabouts, I have thought it right, having regard to this fact and the circumstances above reported, to increase the Kekri circle wage to that given on the 10 seer scale. The rest of the works in Ajmer are, for the present, on the 12 seer scale, but it may be necessary to place some of them on the 11 seer scale. A distribution of clothes and of medical comforts from the Charitable Relief Fund is in progress.

Annexure 1.

Letter from the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 3125, *dated the* 18*th May*, 1900.

In reply to your endorsement No. 1082-F. of 27th April, 1900, I have the honour to inform you—

(*a*) I consider that the majority of the sufferers on the Kekri-Sawar Road were nearly all persons who had arrived comparatively recently, in miserable condition, from the neighbouring native states and istimrari villages. They were not in consequence able to carry out the ordinary tasks, and consequently failed to earn the ordinary wage which at the time was at the 25 per cent. reduced scale. The difference in the appearance of the labourers on this work a month later when they had only been given a very light task and higher wage was remarkable. The tasks were then raised again to those in force elsewhere in the Ajmer district.

(*b.*) Although daily payments are in force, I do not recommend a reduction in wage below the current rate of cheapest grain on the work.

(*c.*) I consider that the regular labourers on Ajmer works are, as a rule, in excellent condition and nearly all carry out the tasks fixed in full.

2. The Assistant Commissioner whom I have consulted writes that he agrees with the opinion expressed by me.

Enclosure 8 in No. 126.

Letter from the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, to the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 2458-*F., dated the* 12*th June*, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 1358-F. and 1433-F., dated the 26th May and 1st June respectively. The latter has been transferred to me from the Superintending Engineer's office as it is more convenient to deal with the subject of wages in one set of correspondence.

2. Your telegram No. 304-F., dated 9th February, announced that orders had been issued for the code scale of famine wages in both districts to be reduced by 25 per cent. This reduction appears to have been in force everywhere up to the 12th of March, when it was abolished in the Kekri circle only. The next step taken, it is understood, was to abolish the reduction in the remaining circles of the Ajmer district as reported in paragraph 5 of your letter No. 870-F., dated the 4th April. Since then, no change in the scale of wages, except such as may have been necessitated by fluctuations in the price of grain, appears to have been effected either in Ajmer or Merwara.

3. In this office No. 1831-F., dated 17th April, 1900, Mr. Martindale pointed out that it was probable that the labourers whose low physique on the Kekri circle relief-works had led you to raise the wage were newly arrived aliens, and he directed that as the Sunday wage and daily payments had been introduced, the 25 per cent. reduction in wage should be everywhere retained except in the Kekri circle. It was also remarked that the arrangements for controlling the grain dealers appeared to have been defective.

4. In the first of your two letters under reply you endorse the opinion of the Executive Engineer and Assistant Commissioner that the majority of the people whose condition led you to abolish the 25 per cent. reduction in the Kekri circle had recently arrived from foreign territory. In paragraph 3 you explain that the wages in the Kekri circle are now on the 10 seer scale and over the rest of the Ajmer circle on the 12 seer scale. The officiating Chief Commissioner cannot clearly understand from this whether the 25 per cent. reduction is still in force in Ajmer with the exception of the Kekri circle, and I am to request that you will kindly enlighten him.

5. The group system of works appears to have been introduced in the beginning of March and the instructions regarding it are contained in the enclosure to your No. 460-F., dated 1st March, 1900. Colonel Wyllie understands that since that date the scale of wages described in that correspondence has prevailed, and that the wages have not been calculated by the officers in charge under the supervision of the executive engineers from time to time according to the market price of grain duly notified to them as is contemplated by the North-Western Provinces Code. At the same time paragraph 5 of your instructions quoted above would appear to give the Executive Engineer, Merwara, power to make any "requisite alteration in consultation with the Assistant Commissioner." I am to explain that it was under the impression that the Executive Engineer had such power that Superintending Engineer's No. 2564 was written.

6. In paragraph 2 of your letter of 1st June, you state that the grouping of works is arranged with reference to prices. I am now directed to ask that you will be so good as to furnish details as to the works in each group, the prices prevailing in the nearest markets or on the works and the weight of grain each separate wage will buy. This information, which has already been called for by Mr. Martindale in this office telegram No. 1886-F., dated 23rd April, but has not yet been furnished, is necessary to enable the Chief Commissioner to follow intelligently the course of the famine policy in Ajmer-Merwara and to justify to the Government of India by facts the expenditure of so large a sum of money as is being spent on famine relief. Until the receipt of your letter of the first of June, Colonel Wyllie understood that the scale of wages in all parts of your jurisdiction except the Kekri circle was 25 per cent. below that warranted by market rates, and Mr. Martindale reported in this sense to the Government of India as long ago as 17th April.

7. It was on the understanding that the 25 per cent. reduction rule was in force over the greater part of Ajmer-Merwara that Superintending Engineer's letter of the 29th May was written. The sole object of that letter, I am to explain, was to point out, what the Chief Commissioner believed to be, certain errors in the method of calculating the reduction. The question of the sufficiency or otherwise of the wages given was not alluded to. Colonel Wyllie is quite prepared on due evidence being shown to agree with you and your officers that the wages are as low as the people can bear. He fully concurs with you that the 25 per cent. rule is not immutable and that a large margin of discretion is allowed to you in either direction. All that he wishes to ensure is that whatever variation above or below the normal code scale may be determined on, it should be calculated in the prescribed way and reported for information. Otherwise it becomes impossible either for the local administration or for the Government of India to have an accurate idea of the measure of relief given to the people. If the fortnightly statements contained an exact note of the disbursements on account of the wages of each separate class, it might be possible by a reference to the returns of fluctuations in prices to determine approximately, the relation of the wages to the market grain rates. But as pointed out in this office No. 2321-F., dated 29th May, 1900, that source of information is not yet available.

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FOR 1901-2.

No. 127.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, in the Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4060 *S., dated Mount Abu, 25th October,* 1901.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a telegram, dated 24th October, 1901, from the Commissioner,

Ajmer-Merwara, applying for an allotment of funds under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

2. The unfavourable agricultural outlook in Ajmer-Merwara has already been reported to Government of India, whilst the Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara now estimates that the irrigated kharif crop in both districts will yield something under 8 anna in the rupee, and that the unirrigated crops will yield almost nothing; but until detailed information is received as to the proportion to the normal of the irrigated and unirrigated areas to which the above estimate has been applied, and the precise localities in which the failure of the kharif harvest has amounted to a total loss, it is impossible to say how soon and to what extent relief measures will be required.

3. Although no signs of distress have so far been reported to exist, it cannot be doubted that the large defect in the average rainfall of the years will have the serious effect of limiting irrigation to a very large extent, and thus this fact, combined with the almost total failure of the kharif cereal crops over the unirrigated area in the two districts, will eventually result in distress of a more or less pronounced type in those villages which are not protected by a strong well system of irrigation. Detailed reports on the above points have already been asked for from the Commissioner, and it s expected will be received very shortly now that the autumn "Girdawari" or assessment of standing crops is approaching completion. The precise forms of relief that will be required to meet any symptoms of distress as they develop can then be determined in accordance with the most recent orders of Government on this subject.

4. Meanwhile, to aid the agricultural population until the above more important measures are sanctioned, the question of granting takavi advances has been under the consideration of the local authorities, with the result, as will be seen from the Ccmmissioner's telegram, that it is considered that the sum of Rs. 1,30,000 may usefully be applied under the two Acts in force for advances to cultivators in those areas in which they can be profitably utilised for the extension of well irrigation. Whilst urgent sanction for Rs. 50,000 to meet immediate requirements is now solicited.

5. The Honourable the Officiating Chief Commissioner supports this application pending the receipt of the further report and detailed estimates which have been promised by the Commissioner. I am, therefore, to request that the Government of India will be pleased to communicate by telegram their sanction to a preliminary allotment of Rs. 50,000 inclusive of the normal grant of Rs. 15,000 for distribution in both districts under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts.

Enclosure in No. 127.

Telegram from the Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, dated 24th October, 1901.

Please refer end of my weekly report No. 5059, Famine, dated 10th October. I estimate that as matters stand at present without more rain we may usefully give out one lakh thirty thousand under the two Acts. Solicit urgent sanction to preliminary grant of fifty thousand. Detailed estimates will follow.

No. 128.

Telegram from J. B. Fuller, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara, No. 3910, *dated Simla, the* 1st *November*, 1901.

Your letter No. 4060 of 25th ultimo to Foreign Department. Government of India agree to grant for takavi advances in Ajmer-Merwara during current

year being increased to Rs. 50,000 on understanding that proper precautions will be taken that takavi is usefully applied.

No. 129.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, in the Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4322 S., dated Mount Abu, the 5th November, 1901.

Unfavourable Agricultural Outlook in Ajmer-Merwara.

In continuation of this office letter No. 4060 S., dated 25th October, 1901, on the subject of the unfavourable agricultural outlook in Ajmer-Merwara, and with reference to this office No. 3620 S, dated 3rd October,* I am directed to address you as follows.

2. *Ad interim* report.—The Commissioner's detailed report of kharif out-turn, probable rabi sowings, and particulars of areas where the kharif crop has totally failed, is expected to reach this office on November 18th, and the information contained will be at once communicated to you on receipt. In the meantime I am to submit the following *ad interim* report giving such information as is already to hand.

3. *Rainfall.*—The Government of India are aware from the weather and crop telegrams that the rainfall in Ajmer-Merwara has been largely in defect as compared with the normal. The following table gives month by month, from 1st June to end of October, 1901, the actual rainfall in Ajmer with the average for each month :—

—	In 1901.	Average.
	Inches.	Inches.
June	1·11	2·22
July	5·32	7·20
August	4·69	7·97
September	0·25	2·53
October	0·60	0·29

4. *Extent of Crop Failure.*—The usefulness of such rain as fell was qualified by the unseasonableness of the falls and by the sudden cessation of the monsoon at the end of August. As the result of this capricious rainfall and of the ravages of locusts, rats, and a species of field cricket, locally known as "pharka," the kharif food-grain crops on the unirrigated lands in both districts have to a large extent failed, though tilli, cotton and hemp have done better than the other food-grains, and the result is a 4-anna out-turn on the whole, while the irrigated area which, for want of rain, is less than usual has given all round an 8-anna crop, which amounts to about a 7-anna crop on the normal irrigated area.

5. *Effect of Recent Rainfall.*—The fall of rain which occurred at the end of October, 1901, averaged 60 cents for the two districts, and in some places

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* Forecast for Rajputana—*see* Vol. II., page 392.

where it amounted to about one inch and a half the water-supply in the wells was slightly improved. These late showers have also facilitated rabi ploughings in the beds of tanks, but the Commissioner reports that their effects on cotton, where in flower, and on the grass crops, have been more injurious than beneficial. As this late rainfall has not been sufficient to benefit the wells generally, the rabi cultivation will be necessarily limited in area. In Merwara, where the water-level in the wells is lower than in Ajmer, and in Ajmer, where the circumstances are favourable, wells are being deepened, and doubtless some good results will follow, but the Commissioner has no great hopes of any material expansion of the rabi cultivation by this means, as the circumstances are not altogether opportune for deepening wells at this season, when "sowing watering" has to go on at the same time.

6. *Estimates of Out-turn.*—The out-turn of the recent kharif is estimated at 70,000 maunds in the Khalsa portion of the Ajmer district with a population of 77,631, so that it may be assumed that there is in this quantity a supply for two to three months. Although figures for the Jagir and Istimrari estates which occupy over three-fifths of the Ajmer district have not been supplied (nor would such figures be easily available), there appears to be no reason to believe that the position of those estates is worse than that of the Khalsa area.

7. In the Merwara district the out-turn is reported to be about 95,500 maunds, which would last for 2½ to 3½ months for the 87,422 people in the district.

8. *Food Stock.*—No account can be taken of the previous year's surplus. The absence of such accummulations is sufficiently accounted for by the previous history of the districts which have passed through a series of indifferent seasons culminating in the scarcity of 1898-1899 and the famine of 1899-1900. The poorer class of cultivators are said to have suffered in their credit with the village bohra, and it is obvious that the resisting power of the people cannot have been much strengthened by one year's favourable harvest.

9. *Prices.*—The local trade may be relied on, as in former times of adversity, for maintaining and distributing the required supply of food-stocks. There seems also no reason to apprehend that the prices will rise to the level which they attained in 1899-1900, as the general level of prices depends more on the state of the harvests in the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces than on local conditions. Prices in Ajmer quoted for week ending the 26th October, 1901, are compared with those ruling in the middle of February and May, 1901, in the following table :—

—	15th February, 1901.	15th May, 1901.	26th October, 1901.
Maize	22·8	17·6	16·2
Barley	15·8	18·0	15·8
Gram	10·10	17·2	15·8
Jowar	22·6	18·8	15·0

Prices have fluctuated slightly of late, but in the absence of the statistics showing the movements of food-grains no useful conclusions can be drawn on the subject further than that the present rates of grains are sufficiently high, in the existing conditions, to mark the beginning of pressure on the agricultural classes which form the bulk of the population of these districts.

10. *Cattle, Fodder Supply, &c.*—The Commissioner who has been touring in the district of Ajmer reports that kharif cuttings are nearly complete, and that rabi ploughings and in some places sowings have commenced. The condition of

the agricultural live-stock is good, and the fodder-supply promises to be sufficient. The Commissioner reports that in his recent tours, which have now extended over a considerable portion of the Ajmer district, he has not seen any signs of distress. But at the same time he has taken measures calculated to meet any future developments and is doing what is necessary to put the administrative machinery for relief in a state of preparedness.

11. *Takavi.*—Every effort is being made to meet the demands of the cultivators for takavi advances, wherever such can be usefully employed, and suspensions of the land revenue demand will be granted on the usual policy. The prospects of a water famine are reported to be slight.

12. *Relief Requirements.*—In the opinion of the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, the necessity for opening test relief works will make itself felt about January, 1902. In estimating the probable relief expenditure that will be required, an important factor is the sufficiency or otherwise of the relief organisation in the Istimrari areas and the surrounding Native States. The responsibility of the Istimrardars for relief within their own estates is laid down in paragraph 31 of the Ajmer Famine Code, 1897, but the rule was practically set aside in the famine of 1899-1900, when in view of the inability of some of the Istimrardars to maintain relief operations on any scale it was found necessary to admit their tenants freely on Government works and to open kitchens at the expense of Government for their gratuitous relief.

13. *Istimrari Estates.*—In view of the above drawbacks it has now been decided that, except in the few instances of the larger and better managed estates, the preliminary investigation and organisation of relief measures to be adopted should be carried out by the District Officials under the direction of the Commissioner on the same lines, subject to minor modifications, as have been adopted under the recent orders of Government for the Khalsa and Jagir areas, whilst the expenditure involved will, in the first instance, be charged to Government funds, subject to such recovery from the estate-holders as may subsequently be equitably determined.

14. *Immigration from Native States.*—There is no reason at present to apprehend any immigration on a large scale from neighbouring Native States, such as that which occurred during the famine of 1899-1900. This is attributable partly to the less acute form of the impending scarcity, and also to the precautions taken by the Durbars to relieve any distress which may occur within their territory.

15. *Probable Expenditure.*—In these circumstances, and though the Honourable Colonel Thornton is not yet, with the information available, in a position to give even an approximate estimate of the numbers likely to seek relief in some shape or other, I am to ask that an allotment of R20,000 may be placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner under the head "33.—Famine Relief," the distribution of which into "expenditure in charge of Public Works Department" and "expenditure in the Civil Department" will be reported later.

16. *Proposed Works.*—I am also to request that sanction may be accorded as a precautionary measure to the commencement of work, should the necessity arise, on the works noted in the margin. For the earthwork of the proposed Nasirabad-Sawar-Jogalai-Jehazpur Railway—a work which remainded unfinished at the close of the last relief operations—the sanction of the Government of India in the Public Works Department has already been applied for under this Department letter No. 4238 S., dated 2nd November, 1901.

Unfinished Works of 1899–1900.
Makrera tank.
Asan tank.
Kukerkhera tank.

No. 130.

Telegram from Revenue Secretary, Government of India, to Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 3990, *dated the 25th November*, 1901.

Your letter No. 4322 S., dated 5th, regarding unfavourable outlook in Ajmer-Merwara. In India Estimates there is a provision of R20,000 under head Famine Relief for Ajmer. Is the twenty thousand now asked for in addition to that amount ?

No. 131.

Telegram from Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to Revenue Secretary, Government of India, No. 467, *dated the 28th November*, 1901.

Your telegram 3990. The R20,000 now asked for is not in addition to the amount referred to.

No. 132.

Letter from R. E. V. Arbuthnot, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 4113, *dated Calcutta, the 12th December*, 1901.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram dated the 28th ultimo, I am directed to say that the Government of India are pleased to authorise you to spend on famine relief the amount of R20,000 provided for that purpose in the current year's Budget. They also sanction the commencement, if necessary, of the works noted in paragraph 16 of Mr. White's letter No. 4322 S., dated 5th November, 1901, on the understanding that they will at the outset be managed as "test" works on the lines recommended by the Famine Commission.

No. 133.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General, Rajputana and Central India, and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, in the Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 576 *S.—C., dated Camp, Jassakhera, the 14th December*, 1901.

In my letter No. 4322 S., dated 5th November, 1901, the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, stated that a detailed report of kharif out-turn, probable rabi sowings, and particulars of areas affected by the failure of the kharif crop, would be submitted to Government of India on receipt of the necessary information from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara. As these details have now been furnished, though somewhat later than were expected, I am to report as follows.

2. The kharif out-turn as ascertained from local returns is compared below with the out-turn of the corresponding harvests of the five years :—

Name of Sub-Collectorate.	Out-turn of Kharif in Maunds.					
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.
Ajmer	277,600	307,700	261,800	66,500	435,000	130,600
Beawar	142,800	202,000	92,600	7,200	191,500	44,700
Todgurh	133,600	140,800	93,700	8,800	89,300	65,000
Total	554,000	650,600	448,100	82,500	715,800	240,300

Taking the kharif harvest of 1897-98 as a good average harvest (although some damage was done by locusts), the percentage of defect from normal of the recent kharif out-turn is shown in the following table :—

—	Normal.	Actual.	Percentage of Defect.	Actual Out-turn in Annas.
Ajmer	307,700	130,600	58	7 annas.
Beawar	202,000	44,700	78	3½ „
Todgurh	140,800	65,000	54	7½ „
Total	650,500	240,300	63	5 annas.

The Ajmer District has fared better than was anticipated in my letter of the 5th November, while the estimates for the Merwara District remain practically correct.

3. Judging from the mere figures of the kharif out-turn, the food supply locally produced at the last kharif, if equally distributed, would support the population as follows :—

—	Rural Population.	Number of Month's Supply.
Ajmer	77,631	4½, *i.e.*, from October 15th to the end of February.
Merwara	87,422	3½, *i.e.*, from October 15th to the end of January.

The above calculation excludes the Istimrari and Jaghir estates for which figures of kharif out-turn are not available.

4. With regard to the probable out-turn of the ensuing rabi harvest, the area now being sown for the rabi is reported to be—

In Ajmer ... ... 12 annas.
„ Beawar ... ... 3·4 „
„ Todgurh ... ... 4 „

It is reported that in the Ajmer District the average depth of water in the irrigation wells is between one-third and half the normal depth at this time of year; in the Merwara District it is a little over one-third. But the explanation of the disproportion in the rabi sowings between Ajmer and Merwara lies in the physical characteristics of the two districts. In the more hilly country of Merwara the soil is shallow and unretentive of moisture, and irrigation from tanks is on a considerably larger scale than that from wells. These tanks this year have not only run dry, but did so before ploughings for rabi had been commenced, when the required moisture for cultivation in the beds of tanks, except in the case of few large tanks, had evaporated, and thus a large area was lost for rabi sowings. This is not the case in the Ajmer district where the soil is more absorbent, and crops also depend more on irrigation from wells than from tanks. Cultivation in the beds of tanks in Ajmer is reported this year to be above normal. Much again was done during the last famine to improve the Ajmer tanks, and this and the above stated facts no doubt make the position of Ajmer stronger than that of the sister district. In both districts the situation is being carefully watched, though as yet no real signs of distress are apparent.

5. The crops have failed most and the rabi prospects are worst in the central and north-eastern tracts of the Merwara district, of which about one-third is affected, and test works will shortly be opened in those localities.

6. The month of November passed away without rain. In other respects the state of affairs is very much the same as reported in my letter of the 5th November.

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

MONTHLY FAMINE REPORTS.

No. 134.

FAMINE REPORT FOR JUNE, 1900.

The June rainfall in the affected districts was on the whole only slightly below the normal amount expected. This rain has laid to a continued improvement, and sowings have become general almost thoughout in respect chiefly of the lighter soils which are usually the first sown. Pasturage has continued to improve and it was found possible at the end of June to withdraw the concessions of free grazing in forests in Kurnool which has been granted. In consequence of the improved pasture, the cattle which were in poor condition in a few places are picking up again.

District.	Average Expected.	1900.
Kistna	3·84	2·17
Nellore	1·64	1·23
Kurnool	3·05	2·84
Bellary	2·62	2·68
Anantapur	2·44	1·57
Cuddapah	2·35	1·99

Prices remained almost unchanged, though towards the end of the month they began to rise, chiefly under the influence of a revival of the demand for export towards Bombay, but the average rates for the staple grains during the month were not much dearer than those which prevailed in June, 1897, though generally dearer than those of June, 1892. Supplies were everywhere ample and the large exports which have been made during the last twelve months indicate the degree to which the practice of storing grain still continues.

Everywhere the people are reported to be in good condition and the public health has been good. There has been no serious demand for employment on the test-works that were open, and it was found possible to close the works in Nellore during the month, and in Bellary at the end of the month. The works have been continued on the intermediate system, but orders were issued during the month to test the task system on the plan sanctioned in G.O. No. 514, dated 25th May, 1900, on portions of selected works. Further enquiries confirm the conclusion arrived at that the small wages earned in some cases have been chiefly due to the disinclination of the people to work, expecting that a "minimum" or "famine" wage would be paid for little or no work done.

No change has been made in the system of relief offered to weavers; the reduction in the numbers appearing on the list is due to the enforcement of tests.

Loan operations have been greatly restricted owing to the want of funds, and it has been found necessary to stop them entirely outside the affected areas owing to the fact that already nearly the whole of the small grant made this year will be required to meet accepted cases.

No. 135.

Famine Report for July, 1900.

With the close of June, it was found possible to remove the portions of Nellore and Bellary, which had previously been considered affected, from the area to be dealt with in these reports, whilst the general improvement in the outlook during July leaves but a small portion of the remaining area affected at the date of this report.

Almost throughout the area shown in the table, the rainfall during July was in excess of the average expected, the season having taken a most favourable turn about the 18th idem. Sowing has been actively proceeding, and large areas of young crops are thriving in all parts. Pasturage has sprung up everywhere, and the inferior and non-working cattle which had had a hard time during the dry months, were picking up rapidly.

Prices, during the early part of the month, showed an upward tendency owing to there being some holding off of the rains and to the large demand for Western India, but during the latter part again fell away in the affected area, leaving the average for the month about equal to that of June in Kistna, Kurnool and Bellary, and rather higher in the other districts.

The condition of the people everywhere has continued good; with the improved agricultural prospects the local demand for labour has, for the most part, revived, and the numbers resorting to the test works have gradually decreased. The test works are being closed by degrees; the relief given to weavers at their own trade was continued on the plan previously adopted.

Towards the end of the month, a further grant was made to enable the Board to carry on loan operations, but with the improvement of the season the demand for loans, especially for the purchase of fodder, has greatly decreased in the affected areas.

No. 136.

Famine Report for August, 1900.

During the early part of the month under report the test works in the Anantapur and Kurnool districts were closed, and the area previously treated as affected in them has been excluded from this report.

In Kistna, the test work in one taluk was closed during the month, and in Cuddapah only one work was open at the end ot August.

The situation, however, of a large portion of the Presidency gave rise to grave anxiety during the month owing to the continued failure of the rains. During the last few days of the month this anxiety was removed by the showery weather that then set in, and since the beginning of September there has been good or abundant rain almost everywhere. Though owing to the continued drought, the young crops suffered somewhat, the recent rainfall has revived them and has also brought some supply to the tanks and wells. Pasturage is found everywhere and the condition of the cattle has materially improved.

Prices showed a downward tendency generally until the latter part of the month when they began to rise again in many places. The condition of the people continued good, and the local demand for labour has revived.

Arrangements are in progress for winding up the relief offered to weavers in Cuddapah.

No. 137.

Letter from the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 5328-Mis., dated Madras, the 10th October, 1900.

With reference to your Circular No. 5-F., dated 2nd March, 1892, embodied in section 48 of the Madras Famine Code, I am directed to report that, owing to the improved agricultural outlook, the test works in Kistna and Cuddapah districts that were open at the end of August were closed early in September. Further advances to weavers, who were being relieved at their own trade, were stopped from the middle of the month, and steps are being taken to wind up the operations ; and the number (2,420) on relief at the end of September represent only those persons from whom advances of materials still had to be recovered. For the present no part of the Presidency can be considered affected. Prices, although extremely high, are gradually falling, and the outlook is generally satisfactory.

No. 138.

FAMINE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 1901.

The affected area is for the present confined to the northern section of the Cuddapah district comprising the taluks of Cuddapah, Jammalamadugu, Pulivendla, and Proddatur, and a portion of Badvel which forms one of the taluks comprising the eastern section. The characteristic of the present distress is that the areas affected are small and scattered.

2. The gravity of the situation lies in the fact that the distress, though partial, follows another period of scarcity almost amounting to famine, which came to a close only in September last. The south-west monsoon gave good rains in June and July but the fall in August was seriously deficient ; and it was the copious rainfall of September that terminated the first period of scarcity above referred to. The failure of the October and November rainfall is the cause of the present distress. The early dry crops failed entirely in a few places, and generally gave but a poor outturn, while the standing dry crops which were sown late also suffered. There were slight showers in parts of the affected taluks in January and good rain in the month under report, but this rainfall seems to have done little good beyond improving the supply in the irrigation sources in Jammalamadugu, Proddatur and Pulivendla taluks.

3. Prices were a little easier as compared with those for January, and almost stationary as compared with the corresponding period of 1900 which was also a year of distress. The prices of ragi and cholam, the staple food grains, were above the scarcity rate.

4. Towards the end of January the Collector of Cuddapah reported that owing to the failure of crops, the condition of the labouring classes in the Muddanur valley of Jammalamadugu taluk was such as to render State relief necessary and recommended the opening of a test-work. This was sanctioned with instructions to carry it out under the "intermediate piece-work system." The Chintakunta tank work was accordingly opened on the first of the month, and it affords relief to the villagers of the Jammalamadugu and Proddatur taluks. The attendance was moderate in the beginning of the month, and towards the end of the second week the numbers decreased owing to the low wages which the workers earned. The attendance has, however, increased of late and is likely to continue rising as the harvest in garden lands on which many of the working classes are now employed gradually comes to an end.

5. The necessity for relieving the weavers' community in Jammalamadugu taluk was also brought to notice by the Collector in December, as owing to the extreme dearness of food grains, the demand for cloths had entirely ceased, and many looms had in consequence to remain idle. Under instructions from Government the Commissioner visited the taluk and found it necessary to issue orders to resume the weavers' relief operations which were closed only in September last.

6. Besides the above measures, the grant of State loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act is also encouraged, and this is calculated to afford considerable employment to able-bodied labourers.

No. 139.

FAMINE REPORT FOR MARCH, 1901.

The affected area remained the same as in the previous month. There was a slight fall in the price of dry grains as compared with the previous month. The prices are still above the scarcity rates.

2. The condition of the people in the affected area is good. No increase in crime has been reported, nor is there any aimless wandering of the people. Private charity continues as usual, and the number fed daily at a private kitchen in Jammalamadugu is reported to be 124. The Indian Charitable Relief Fund also affords relief by the grant of money doles to certain old, infirm, destitute people and gosha females.

3. The number of coolies on the Chintakunta tank work, which is the only test work now in progress, increased from 796 at the end of the previous month to 1,606 during the month under report, the increase being due partly to field work having been exhausted.

4. The relief to weavers referred to in the previous report was continued during the month, and the number relieved shows a slight increase.

5. The condition of cattle is reported to be generally good, though fodder is scarce and pasture not plentiful. It is proposed to open the Nallamalla reserve in Pulivendla taluk to free-grazing.

6. State loans are being taken by the ryots, and a sum of about Rs. 1,000 was disbursed during the month under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

No. 140.

FAMINE REPORT FOR APRIL, 1901.

As compared with the previous month, there was a small decrease in the area affected in the Cuddapah district. In the month under report certain areas in the North Arcot district have been added to the list of affected areas, and they are for the present confined to portions of the three taluks of Chandragiri, Wallajapet and Chittoor.

2. The September rainfall in the latter district was good, though the total fall from April to September was a trifle below the average expected, but the north-east monsoon was a failure. In the month of December, when in normal years the tanks would all be full, more than one half of them contained no supply, and as there were no freshes in the Pálár, the Ponnai and Cheyar rivers, the anikat-fed tanks under them in Wallajapet, Arcot, and Wandiwash taluks which contain more than one half the wet area in the district fared even worse than the rain-fed tanks elsewhere. There was a great deficiency in paddy cultivation up to the end of February as compared with the average, though the total cultivation on wet lands, including second crop, showed an increase over the previous year, which was all due to extensive cultivation of dry crop on wet

Rainfall.	April.	Week Ending 4th May.
CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.		
Pulivendla	—	1·21
Proddatur	0·19	0·17
Jammalamadugu	—	0·12
NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT.		
Wallajapet	0·02	0·10
Chittoor	0·37	0·01
Chandragiri	0·60	0·16

lands. There was good rainfall in February of the current year, which was, however, too late to be of much use, but it improved pasture and saved a considerable area of standing wet crops. During the month under report and since its close up to the 4th of May, the rainfall in the affected portions of the two districts was as noted on the margin ; but the Collector of North Arcot reports that the recent rainfall was too slight to be of any use ; that drinking water has become scarce in parts and that arrangements are being made to improve its supply from Taluk Board funds.

3. The prices of ragi and cholam in Cuddapah and of ragi in North Arcot became a little easier during the month though still above the scarcity rates, except in the case of rice, which was a little below the warning rate.

4. The test work opened in the Cuddapah district continued to attract large numbers throughout the month. In North Arcot a tank work was started about the middle of the month, under the intermediate piece-work system, and it was attended by 347 workers. The Collector reports that very few of the labourers who have attended this work appeared to be in need of permanent employment.

5. The relief to weavers referred to in the previous report was continued during the month in Cuddapah, the number relieved having been almost stationary.

6. It is reported that the poorer people in the affected portion of the North Arcot district have not been earning sufficient wages for some months past, and have been consequently resorting to famine food such as aloes growing in the railway fences ; that private charity is very much restricted ; that beggars have been congregating in the large towns ; and that the scanty ragi gruel worth three pies a day offered at the kitchens opened by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee has sufficed to draw a considerable number of children and old and infirm people to some distance from their homes. Emigration and crime are also stated to be on the increase.

No. 141.

FAMINE REPORT FOR MAY, 1901.

There was no change in the affected area in Cuddapah district during the month, while there was a contraction in the area in the other district. Some useful rainfall was recorded in the month in both the districts as detailed in the margin, which increased the supply in river channels and some tanks, improved pasturage, and benefited the few standing crops, besides affording some agricultural employment to labourers. Ploughing for early dry crops is also reported to be general in the former district. In North Arcot, however, the rainfall was not sufficient to induce ploughing and sowing generally.

	Total Rainfall in May.
CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.	
Pulivendla	2·13
Proddatur	0·58
Jammalamadagu	3·23
NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT.	
Wallajah	1·74
Chittoor	1·61
Chandragiri	0·70

2. The prices of ragi and cholam in Cuddapah and of ragi in North Arcot became a little easier during the month, though still above the scarcity rates. In the price of rice, there was a slight fall in Cuddapah and a slight rise in North Arcot.

3. The number of workers on the test work opened in Cuddapah increased during the month under report, while in North Arcot the variations in the numbers on the tank work started there having shown that the work has failed as a test work, the Collector has reported that it would be closed about the fourth current. Besides the test work, the construction and repair of wells under the Loans Act afforded labour to 80 workers in the North Arcot district.

4. The relief to weavers referred to in the previous report was also continued during the month in Cuddapah, the number relieved showing a slight increase.

5. The condition of cattle is reported to be good in both the districts, and the rainfall in the month has improved pasture.

No. 142.

FAMINE REPORT FOR JUNE, 1901.

The affected area in Cuddapah district remained the same as in the previous month, while the area in North Arcot district has been removed from the affected list, the test-work opened in the district having been closed on the 10th of the month. During the month there was good rainfall in two of the three affected taluks of the former district, amounting to a little over the average for the month ; but it only very slightly improved the water-supply in tanks and wells. The only agricultural operation in progress was ploughing ; there must be a further good fall of rain before sowing will be commenced.

2. The prices of ragi and cholam rose slightly during the month, while rice became a little cheaper.

3. The number of workers on the Chintakunta test-work in the Cuddapah district decreased considerably during the month, owing mostly to the low wages earned by some of the gangs. The work was closed as a test-work on the 30th June.

4. The relief to weavers referred to in the previous report was also continued during the month, but the number relieved showed a slight decrease.

5. The condition of cattle is reported to be good. Fodder is generally available in the affected tracts of Jammalamadugu and Proddatur taluks, while in Pulivendla the stock is reported to have run out. Pasture is still scarce.

No. 143.

FAMINE REPORT FOR JULY, 1901.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).

RESOLUTION—No. 176, dated 10th August, 1901.

The following letter will be despatched to the Secretary to Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department :—

With reference to circular No. 5-F., dated 2nd March, 1892, embodied in section 48 of the Madras Famine Code, I am directed to report that no test

work was opened in Cuddapah district after the closure of the Chintakunta test work on the 30th June last, and to state that, as no relief measures other than weavers' relief were in operation during the month, the statement and map prescribed have not been submitted.

2. During the month the rainfall in two of the three taluks of the Jammalamadugu division in that district was about half the average expected for the month, while in the third taluk it was only a fourth. The supply in tanks and wells remained very low. The agricultural operations in progress were, baling water to standing crops, ploughing and manuring lands for the sowing of early crops. The standing crops, which are limited to small areas under wells and channels, are reported to be generally in fair condition.

3. The prices of food-grains rose slightly during the month.

4. The advances granted to the weavers were continued during the month, and the number on relief at the end of the month was 2,927. Since the close of the month the grant of fresh advances has been stopped.

5. The death-rate in the district for the month of June, which is the latest month for which information is available, was 17·6 per mille against 14·7, the average of the past five years for the corresponding period. The increase in the death-rate is stated to be due to increased mortality from fevers.

No. 144.

Famine Report for August, 1901.

During the month the rainfall in the three taluks of the Jammalamadugu division of the Cuddapah district was very scanty, especially in the Pulivendla taluk. In the Surabhu valley, a portion of the last-named taluk, however, there was a fall of one inch of rain in the middle of the month, which is reported to have much benefited the cumbu crop in that tract. In the Chingleput district the rainfall was much above the average in several stations, and was below the average in only one station. In the North Arcot district, except in six stations, the rainfall was in general very scanty, especially in the western portion of the district. Since the close of the month, however, there has been general rainfall which has materially improved the condition of the district.

2. Agricultural operations, such as ploughing, sowing, transplanting and weeding were going on generally in Chingleput and the eastern parts of North Arcot. In the western parts of that district, comprising roughly speaking $\frac{4}{5}$ths of its whole area, as well as in nearly the whole of the affected area of the Cuddapah district, agricultural operations were almost at a standstill for want of rain. To meet the demand for labour, certain minor irrigation, Local Fund and Public Works Department works which appertain to the ordinary budgeted programme, were opened on the intermediate piece-work system.

3. The prices of food-grains were stationary in Cuddapah and generally became a little easier in the other two districts.

4. Pasture and fodder, though dear, are generally available in Chingleput and North Arcot districts but scanty in the Jammalamadugu division of Cuddapah. Condition of cattle is generally good except in parts of Cuddapah and North Arcot districts.

5. No test works under the Famine Code were started in any of the districts, the ordinary works set down for execution during the year being utilised as explained in paragraph 2. The advances made to weavers in the Cuddapah district were stopped with the close of July. Necessity for the grant of gratuitous relief in kitchens was, however, felt during the month. Such relief had been given by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for some months, and the larger kitchens maintained by the Fund were taken over on behalf of Government, and others opened as necessity became apparent. In the

Chingleput district two kitchens and in North Arcot fourteen were under Government management at the end of the month. None were opened by Government or taken over by it in the Cuddapah district.

Districts.	Imports.	Exports.
	MDS.	MDS.
Cuddapah...	43,958	2,812
Chingleput	28,867	8,539
North Arcot	102,857	18,124

6. The marginal statement shows the quantity of food-grains exported from, and imported into, the above mentioned districts during the month. In each district the imports were largely in excess of the exports.

7. Information is not yet available as to death-rates for August in these districts. The death-rates for July, which is the latest month for which they are available, were as shown below. The increase in Cuddapah is ascribed to fever, in Chingleput to "all other causes," and in North Arcot to cholera :—

Districts.	Death-rate per Mille.	Average.
Cuddapah	18·5	15·4
Chingleput	22·5	20·5
North Arcot	18·6	15·3

No. 145.

Famine Report for September, 1901.

There was an increase in the distressed area due to the addition of some of the sub-division taluks of Cuddapah district and to the inclusion of two taluks of Anantapur district. The rainfall in these tracts during the first fortnight of the month was below the average, but during the second fortnight the fall was general and above the average. In the Jammalamadugu division of Cuddapah district the rainfall during the month was very irregularly distributed and was also much below the average, being only a fourth in one taluk, three-fourths in another, and one-sixth in the third. Chingleput and North Arcot had good and general rain. Since the close of the month there has been good rainfall in both the divisions of the Cuddapah district and in Chingleput and North Arcot districts which, it is hoped, will materially improve the condition of the affected areas in them.

2. It is reported that the good rain of the second fortnight of the month in the districts named above has given a great impetus to ploughing, sowing, transplanting and weeding generally ; some harvests are also going on in parts.

3. Except for a slight fall in the prices of rice and ragi in Chingleput district and in that of ragi in North Arcot there was a general rise in the prices of food-grains.

4. Pasture and fodder are generally procurable, though the latter is dear in the affected areas of Cuddapah district and insufficient or scarce in parts of Anantapur district. The condition of cattle is generally good excepting in parts of Jammalamadugu division of Cuddapah district and of Anantapur district.

5. Two test works under the Famine Code were opened in Madanapalle taluk of the Cuddapah sub-division about the close of the month. The attendance on one of them declined soon after it was opened owing to the

workers having left for field labour. The other work had been in progress for only three days and the number did not show any sign of rapid advance. One more work was to have been started at the end of the month in the Rayachoti taluk of the same sub-division. In other places the ordinary works set down for execution during the year were alone utilized to give employment to the distressed, as explained in the report for the past month. Owing to the impetus given to agricultural operations by the recent rains, the numbers on the works in Chingleput and North Arcot districts declined, and in consequence two works opened in the former district were stopped, while in the latter district orders have been issued for the closure of four out of five works opened there.

6. Eight kitchens were under Government management in the two divisions of Cuddapah district during the month, four in each division. Two out of the four in the sub-division have been ordered to be closed. In Anantapur district two kitchens were opened towards the close of the month. Out of the four Government kitchens in Chingleput district, two were closed in the month owing to the improvement in the season. Iu the North Arcot district out of fourteen Government kitchens, four were closed during the month and orders to close six more have been issued.

7. The marginal statement shows the quantity of food-grains exported from and imported into Cuddapah, Chingleput and North Arcot districts by rail during the month. There is no information in regard to Anantapur. The imports are largely in excess of exports, but, as compared with the previous month, there was increase in exports and decrease in imports in North Arcot and Chingleput, while the reverse was the case in Cuddapah.

Districts.	Imports.	Exports.
	MDS.	MDS.
Cuddapah...	112,099	625
North Arcot	90,160	21,220
Chingleput	21,282	12,022

8. Information has not yet been furnished as to death-rates for September in these districts. The death-rates for August, which is the latest month for which they have been received, were as shown below :—

Districts.	Death-rate per Mille.	Average.
Cuddapah	18·2	18·4
Anantapur	17·7	19·1
Chingleput	34·5	21·5
North Arcot	24·6	16·6

The increase in Chingleput and North Arcot is ascribed to cholera, dysentery and diarrhœa.

No. 146.

FAMINE REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 1901.

There was a decrease in the distressed area in Cuddapah district. The areas in the other districts have been removed from the affected list. The rainfall during the first half of the month was good in all the four districts, but during the second half was scanty. Good rain has since fallen in all the districts.

2. The usual agricultural operations, ploughing, sowing, transplanting and weeding were in progress, with some harvest here and there. The condition of the standing crops was fair except in parts of Cuddapah and Chingleput districts. The recent rainfall has improved the condition of crops in the excepted tracts.

3. Prices, as compared with the previous month, were generally lower in all the four affected districts.

4. Pasture was generally procurable, but fodder was dear in most parts of the affected areas. The condition of cattle was good.

5. Six test works were in progress during the month—three in the sub-division and three in the Jammalamadugu division of Cuddapah district. Three more works (all tank works), of which two were temporarily closed on account of supplies received by them, were also ordered to be opened in the latter division.

6. There were six kitchens maintained by Government during the month in the Cuddapah district—two in the sub-division and four in the Jammalamadugu division. Two out of the four in the latter division have been ordered to be closed. The two kitchens opened in Anantapur district towards the close of the previous month, and the two remaining kitchens in Chingleput district were also closed during the month. In North Arcot district out of ten kitchens that were open at the beginning of the month, nine were closed during the month, and once since its close.

7. The marginal statement shows the quantity of food-grains exported from and imported into Cuddapah, Chingleput and North Arcot districts by rail during the month. There is no information in regard to Anantapur. As in previous months the imports were in excess of exports, but in Chingleput the excess was not large. As compared with the previous month, the imports have largely fallen in Cuddapah, being only 44,000 maunds as against 1,12,000 maunds.

District.	Imports.	Average.
	I. MDS.	I. MDS.
Cuddapah...	44,505	1,311
North Arcot	1,10,255	30,641
Chingleput	15,239	12,479

8. Information has not yet been received as to death-rates for October in these districts. The death-rates for September, which is the latest month for which they have been received, were as shown below :—

Districts.	Death-rate per Mille.	Average.
Cuddapah	18·3	21·2
Anantapur	24·3	23·5
Chingleput	40·7	21·9
North Arcot	23·6	15·6

The increase in the last three districts is stated to be due to cholera, diarrhœa and dysentery.

No. 147.

FAMINE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 1901.

The total rainfall of the month generally exceeded the average due for the period in all the affected taluks of the Sub-division and of Jammalamadugu division, though more rain is still required for the standing crops. Supplies in tanks and wells are reported to be still inadequate in parts. The usual agricultural operations and harvesting are going on generally.

2. As compared with the previous month prices have become a little easier and the markets are stated to be well supplied.

3. Pasture was generally procurable, but fodder was scanty and dear in parts of the affected areas. The condition of cattle is generally good.

4. The six test works referred to in the previous month's report continued during the month under report in addition to two minor irrigation works, which were reopened during the month in the Jammalamadugu division. Two of the works in the Sub-division will be completed shortly, and no further works will be opened in their place, as field labour is becoming available. Besides the test works, relief was afforded at four kitchens, one of which was closed during the first half of the month.

—	Imports.	Exports.
	I. MDS.	I. MDS.
October	44,505	1,311
November	82,700	5,287

5. The marginal figures show the imports and exports of food-grains by rail during the month. As compared with the previous month there was a large increase both in imports and exports.

6. Information as to death-rates for November has not yet been received; the death-rate for October, which is the latest month for which the rate has been reported, was 24·7 per mille as against an average of 25·3.

No. 148.

FAMINE REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1901.

There was a large contraction in the area affected owing to the removal of the sub-division taluks, in which the rainfall in the early part of the month greatly improved prospects. The rainfall during the month in the Jammalamadugu division, which alone now remains in the affected list, was small, though above the average. The supplies in tanks and wells in that division are inadequate, and more rain is said to be required for all immature crops. Sowings have almost come to a close, and the ryots were engaged during the month in weeding, transplanting, and to a small extent in harvesting operations.

—	December, 1901.	Average.
Jammalamadugu ...	0·63	0·27
Proddatur	0·42	0·39
Pulivendla	1·01	0·38

2. Prices have become slightly easier.

3. Pasture is procurable but scanty; while fodder is dear. The condition of cattle is generally good.

4. Three major and three minor irrigation works were open during the month. One of the minor irrigation works was ordered to be closed as a test work and given on contract. Besides the test works, relief at two Government

kitchens, one of which was ordered to be closed at the end of the month, was also afforded.

5. The marginal figures show the imports and exports of food-grains by rail during the month.

—	Imports.	Exports.
	I. MDS.	I. MDS.
November	82,700	5,287
December	52,675	4,160

6. Information as to death-rates for December has not yet been received ; the death-rate for November, which is the latest month for which the rate has been reported, was 33·5 per mille as against an average of 24·6, the increase being attributed to fevers.

CLASSIFICATION AND TASKING OF RELIEF WORKERS.

No. 149.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.—REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—G.O., No. 217, Revenue, dated the 10th March, 1900,* communicating to the Board of Revenue, with instructions, circular from the Government of India, directing that the classification of test and relief works adopted by the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, may, with certain modifications, be tried in the Madras Presidency.

Resolution of Board of Revenue, No. 129, *dated* 26*th of March*, 1900.

Communicated to all Collectors for information and guidance.

2. Collectors will observe that, until further notice, the digger-carrier system of classifying relief-workers, recommended by the Indian Famine Commission of 1898, is to be adopted on all tasked works in this Presidency. They will also observe that all juveniles from 8—14 years of age, who are capable of working, are to be classed and treated as children instead of those from 8—12 years old.

3. Collectors should remember that under G.O., No. 590, Revenue, dated 11th October, 1898, clause (*b*) of section 106 of the Famine Code has been revised as follows :—

> " Ordinarily the gang shall not be fined so as to reduce the wage below the minimum fixed by section 120 ; if, however, in the hope of forcing the authorities to relax discipline, there is continued and deliberate refusal to do the allotted task, the fining of the gang or any member thereof may be carried more severely down to the proportionate payment of work actually done ; or the contumacious characters may be dismissed from the work or be sent to the poor-house."

On test-works fining should be carried out in proportion to the task performed.

4. Before the new scale of wages can be put into force the orders of Government will, however, be sought on certain points which appear to the Board to require decision. In the meanwhile test and relief works will continue to be carried out on the " intermediate " piece-work system.

5. In its Circular No. 2, Famine, dated 27th December, 1899, communicated in G.O., No. 13, Revenue, dated 9th January, 1900, the Govern-

* *See* page 470 of Command Paper 205, presented in 1900.

ment of India commended to the notice of all authorities the penal wage scale sanctioned for the North-West Provinces and Oudh which is specified in the papers communicated with G.O., No. 93, Revenue, dated 5th February, 1900. In the letter communicated with the G.O., read above, the Government of India express the desire that full consideration should be given to the question whether the penal wage adopted for the Central Provinces is in practice sufficient to deal with cases of contumacy. The amount of this wage is not expressed, but is stated to be somewhat higher than the penal wage of the North-Western Provinces. The latter is the value of—

—	Tolas of Grain.
For men	40
„ women	35
„ children (between 10 and 14 years of age)...	30

or from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the minimum wages, the latter being the amount sufficient to maintain life when little or no work is done as on rest days. This penal wage scale, when compared with the ordinary famine wage scale, shows permissible fining as follows :—

—		Fines.
Diggers	Males	$\frac{1}{10}$
	Females	$\frac{9}{160}$
Carriers	Males	$\frac{7}{160}$
	Females	$\frac{1}{2}$
Children		$\frac{2}{5}$

The scale prescribed in the G. O. read above, however, will not ordinarily allow the fining of relief-workers by more than—

—		Fines.
Diggers	Men	$\frac{25}{960}$ or $\frac{5}{192}$
	Women	$\frac{35}{960}$ or $\frac{7}{192}$
Carriers	Men	$\frac{10}{800}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$
	Women	$\frac{20}{800}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$
Children		No fine.

It will be observed that not only is the ordinary fining power much less than in the North-Western Provinces but that there are grave inequalities between the fines which may be imposed on the two classes and the two sexes. These latter are due to the adoption of different standards as representing the grain wage necessary to sustain life in the case of men and women, respectively, when doing little or no work. This, the Board submits, though perhaps sustainable in theory is unnecessary in practice, as the difference in the quantity

of food required by the sexes when doing no work is so trifling. The maximum power of fining as the rule now stands will *ordinarily* be about one-fourth of the full wage, but only one-eighth in the case of male carriers.

It appears to the Board that a wider discretionary power of fining must, if proper discipline is to be enforced on relief works, be entrusted to the officers in charge of works. It is true that the rule in certain cases permits more severe fining, but these cases are contemplated as exceptional, so that the severe fining would be permissible only on special cause shown ; whereas, in the North-Western Provinces the use of the penal wage is normally permissible, and it is its suspension which would be the exception requiring special sanction. Now that the minimum wage rule is perfectly well known to those resorting to test and relief works, it is difficult to get work done, since "workers" prefer a minimum wage in idleness to a full wage with work. The Board would therefore recommend that a penal wage should be laid down, and that, ordinarily, fines for short work may be inflicted so far as they do not reduce the wage below that level. It also appears essential to permit some fining in the case of children, especially as their numbers under the new age rule will be considerably increased, and when present in large numbers, and sure of their full wage in any case, the children of a gang may be so incorrigibly idle as to reduce the outturn of the gang as a whole so that no members of it can earn a working wage.

6. The Indian Famine Commission (1898) apparently contemplate the grant of minimum wages on tasked works to all except in cases of contumacy, but the Government of India, in its circular No. 2, dated 27th December, 1899, state that "when it becomes necessary to resort to the system of fixed task and minimum wage, fines for short work should be strictly enforced." Looking at the table of wages in *pice* now to be introduced, the Board apprehends that the power of fining given by section 106 of the Code will be altogether insufficient to enforce the prescribed tasks, whilst under the pice wages system the inequality of the operation of the rules will be considerable.

It appears to be a necessary corollary of the pice wage system that the fines to be imposed upon the unit tasked—*i.e.*, the gang as a whole—should be in pice multiples for each member of the gang. Leaving aside for the present the difficulties attendant on any system of fining, alluded to in paragraph 463 of the report of the Commission, the Board begs to point out certain further anomalies which must arise in regard to fining under the wage scale now laid down by Government, in addition to the unequal treatment of men and women workers already mentioned. Thus, with grain selling at 14 seers per rupee, the fines which can possibly be inflicted will be—

—	Fines.
On male diggers	$\frac{1}{8}$ of the wage only.
On male carriers	
On female carriers	$\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{2}{8}$ of the wage.

With grain at 12 seers, the fines may be—

—	Fines.
On male diggers	$\frac{1}{8}$ of the wage.
On male carriers	none
On female carriers	$\frac{1}{4}$ of the wage.

With grain at 10 seers, the fines may be—

—	Fines.
On male diggers	$\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the wage.
On male carriers	none.
On female carriers	$\frac{1}{6}$ of the wage.

Under paragraph 28 of Appendix VI. to the Madras Famine Code, the fine should be proportionate to the work turned out, and thus a gang, if working when grain was sold at 12 seers per rupee, and turning out from 80—90 per cent. of the full task, should be fined one-fifth of the wage all round. Under the pice rule, the diggers can be fined one-sixth only ; the male carriers nothing ; the female carriers the proper fine of one-fifth ; and the children nothing, though probably and especially at stone-breaking, largely responsible for the short work. If the workers only did 60 per cent. of the task, none could be fined more severely, and if they did 90 per cent. none could be fined less severely. The result cannot fail to be demoralising and to operate inequitably on the workers.

7. In these circumstances, the Board requests that it may be favoured with explicit instructions. In making this reference it ventures to draw the attention of the Government to the following extract from paragraph 457 of the Famine Commission's Report, 1898 : "The full pice wage renders it unnecessary to alter the wage scale with every petty variation of the price of grain and enables every worker to know exactly what his daily wage should be throughout long periods." The advantage to the workers is a great one, but if the requirement of the Commission "that if a full pice wage is adopted, the rule should be that when the true and exact wage exceeds a pice multiple by $1\frac{1}{2}$ pies exactly or more, the next higher pice multiple should be given" be complied with, then within the range of prices from 6 to 16 seers per rupee, there should be a change in the scale of wages for one or other of the classes adopted in the G.O. read above at 25 different points, many of them differing from one another only by fractions of a seer. In the table framed by Government changes in the rates occur at 18 different points between 16 and 6 seers per rupee ; the differences being in all cases given in favour of Government against the workers. The Board apprehends that some more rough and ready system should be adopted, and it recommends that whilst the wages should bear generally some relation to the quantities of grain, of which they are supposed to be the money equivalents, the idea of securing exact equivalence in all cases should be given up. With this view, the Board suggests the adoption of the subjoined table of wages in lieu of that submitted for the approval of Government in its Proceedings, No. 37, dated 31st January, 1900. The question was considered and discussed by the Famine Forms and Finance Committee recently, and a copy of some notes recorded in that discussion is appended.

Prices of Grain in Seers per Rupee.	Wages of Workers.			Penal Wage.		Minimum Wage.
	Diggers.	Carriers.	Children.	Adults.	Children.	Adults.
	Pice.	Pice.	Pice.	Pice.	Pice.	Pice.
16	5	4	2	2	1	3
14	6	5	3	2	1	4
12	7	6	4	3	2	5
10	8	7	4	3	2	5
9	9	8	5	4	3	6
8	10	9	5	4	3	6

In this table the standard is the digger's wage; carriers to receive three pies less, which they would do, except for a few exceptions* at all prices between 7·5 and 16 seers per rupee, under a more exactly calculated table; and children to get approximately half a digger's wage.

* Between 14·2 and 13·8 seers, diggers and carriers, both 5 pice.
Between 11·7 and 11·6 seers, diggers 7 and carriers 5 pice.
Between 10·1 and 9·8 seers, diggers 8 and carriers 6 pice.
Between 8·9 and 8·5 seers, diggers 9 and carriers 7 pice.
Between 8·0 and 7·5 seers, diggers 10 and carriers 8 pice.

Fining should ordinarily be permitted in proportion to the work done by the gangs down to the penal wage, the scale of fining being fixed with reference to the work turned out, but so long as the pice wage scale is adhered to, the system of fining must be purely arbitrary and cannot be freed from anomalies. It must vary with the prices of grain, and a table might be drawn up, in the manner of that subjoined, for the guidance of paymasters in calculating the deductions to be made. The drawback to any such table is that unless, prices are at or are dearer than 12 seers per rupee, small deficiencies in outturn cannot be equitably dealt with. The fines on carriers will have to be the same whether they perform 80 or 90 per cent. of their full task.

Price of Grain in Seers per Rupee.	The Fine in Pice for Deficiency of Task by						Full Wage.	Minimum Wage.
	10 per Cent.	20 per Cent.	30 per Cent.	40 per Cent.	50 per Cent.	More than 50 per Cent.		
	Will be in the case of Diggers—Pice.							
16	—	1	—	2	—	3	5	3
14	1	—	2	—	3	4	6	4
12	1	—	2	3	—	4	7	5
10	1	2	—	3	4	5	8	5
9	1	2	3	4	—	5	9	6
8	1	2	3	4	5	6	10	6
	Will be in the case of Carriers—Pice.							
16	—	1	—	2	—	—	4	3
14	—	1	—	2	—	3	5	4
12	1	—	2	—	3	—	6	5
10	1	—	2	3	—	4	7	5
9	1	2	—	3	4	—	8	6
8	1	2	3	4	—	5	9	6
	Will be in the case of Children—Pice.							
16	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
14	—	—	1	—	2	—	3	—
12	—	—	1	—	2	—	4	—
10	—	—	1	—	2	—	4	—
9	—	—	1	—	2	—	5	—
8	—	—	1	—	2	—	5	—

The operation of this scale may be judged from the following table which shows the quanity of grain which may be bought for each pice mentioned in the scale, at the prices quoted :—

Price of Grain in Seers per Rupee.	The Quantity of Grain in Tolahs which may be Purchased for Pice.									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16	20	40	60	80	100	—	—	—	—	—
14	17½	35	52½	70	87½	105	—	—	—	—
12	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	—	—	—
10	12½	25	37½	50	62½	75	87½	100	—	—
9	11¼	22½	33¾	45	56¼	67½	78¾	90	100¼	—
8	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

A fine of one pice, with grain at 16 seers per rupee, will reduce the wage by 20 tolahs, at 12 seers by 15 and at 8 seers by 10 tolahs only.

When wages are paid for two or three days together at one time; the amount to be paid to each worker can more closely approximate to the proportion of the task turned out. Should the Government approve of the suggestions made above, a full and complete table of fines for each class of workers for periods of one to four days may be prepared and furnished to all officers concerned for their use and guidance.

8. If these proposals should commend themselves to Government, the Board would propose that the officer in charge of the work should report the number of gangs fined below the minimum wage in his weekly report.

It should also be laid down that the Collector may at any time, in the case of any particular work or group of works, suspend the operation of the penal wage and limit the power of fining to the minimum wage. Each case where this discretion is exercised should be separately reported.

The penal wage rule would, of course, not apply to weakly gangs where it is found necessary to form such. To them the minimum wage should, in any case, be paid.

9. With reference to the question of the relief of dependants alluded to in paragraph 3 of the Government Order read above, the Board requests that it may be informed whether the system of money doles therein described is to take the place of the distribution of cooked food at kitchens, and on this a reference to the concluding sentence of paragraph 455 of the Famine Commission's report is solicited.

10. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Government Order, the Collectors of Kurnool, Nellore and Cuddapah are requested to report what works may be taken up in order to test the two systems as desired by Government. The works selected should either be sections of a road work, *e.g.*, Markapur to Tokapalli in Kurnool or the Amanabrolu feeder road in Nellore, or two adjacent tank works ; they should serve the same locality and be, if possible, under the same officer throughout.

ORDER—No. 513, Revenue, dated 25th May, 1900.

The Government proceeds to pass orders on the points raised by the Board of Revenue in its Proceedings read above, but would observe that in its opinion none of the points raised are of such importance as to have rendered it necessary to keep in abeyance orders which the Government desired should be carried out at an early date.

2. *Paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings—Extent to which fining is permissible.*—The Madras rules as to fining are contained in section 106 of the Madras Famine Code as amended by G.O., No. 257, dated 21st April, 1897, and paragraph 20 of G.O., No. 590, dated 11th October, 1898, and in paragraph 28 of Appendix VI. thereto. Under these rules fines inflicted for short work are ordinarily subject to the limitation that the wage earned is not to be reduced below the minimum wage; where, however, the short work is due to continued and deliberate contumacy, the fining may be carried further down to the proportionate payment for work done; and where the outturn is trifling or *nil*, the wage will be *nil*. The rules in force in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh in regard to fining are contained in paragraphs 45 to 47 of Appendix D-XIV. at pages 131, 132 of the North-Western Provinces Famine Code (September, 1899). From these it appears that in famine districts fines inflicted for short work should not be so heavy as to reduce the wage below the minimum wage except in cases of contumacy when the fining may be carried further, but not so as to reduce the wage below the penal wage. Thus the ordinary fining power appears to be in principle the same in Madras as in the North-Western Provinces, while in the exceptional case of contumacy, the North-Western Provinces rules are more lenient than those of Madras which recognise formally no minimum in such cases.

3. The Board's statement that the ordinary fining power in Madras is more restricted than in the North-Western Provinces, where the use of the penal wage seems to be normally permissible, appears therefore to be incorrect. The Government nevertheless considers it advisable to specify the lowest penal rates which may be paid on works carried out on the task-work system and resolves to adopt for this purpose the penal wage of 45 tolas sanctioned by the Government of India for Bombay. It will, of course, be understood that any fining beyond the "minimum wage" is to be exceptional and permissible only in the special circumstances defined in section 106 of the Code as modified by the subsequent orders recited in paragraph 2 *supra*. The Government is also of opinion that the Collector should, as suggested by the Board of Revenue, have discretion to suspend the operation of the penal wage in the case of any work or group of works and to limit the power of fining to the minimum wage; each case where this discretion is exercised being separately reported to the Board of Revenue.

4. *The fining of working children.*—The Government accepts the Board's suggestion that working children should be rendered liable to fine, and has resolved to prescribe a minimum wage and a penal wage for them. These shall be 40 tolas and 30 tolas respectively.

5. *Inequalities in the operation of the existing rules as to fining.*—The inequalities dwelt upon in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Board's Proceedings are in great part due to the existence of different rates of minimum wage for males and females. The minimum for males will be reduced to 60 tolas in accordance with the decision arrived at in G.O., No. 511, dated 25th May, 1900, and when this reduction is made the inequalities will mostly disappear. Any that still remain cannot be avoided as they are due to the rule that task workers cannot ordinarily be fined below the minimum wage.

6. *Paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings—Table of wages.*—The Board's statement that in the table appended to G.O., No. 217, dated 10th March, 1900, the differences in wages are in all cases given in favour of Government and against the workers, is incorrect. The arguments advanced in this connection do not satisfy Government that it is necessary to adopt a shorter table prepared on what the Board calls "a more rough and ready system." There does not seem to be any valid objection to a table similar to the one appended to G.O., No. 217, dated 10th March, 1900, except that the course of prices has to be more carefully watched and recorded, and this is an advantage rather than the reverse.

7. *Table of Fines.*—The table of fines for short work printed in the Board's proceedings is full of blanks, and it is not easy to see what figures it is intended to insert in the places left blank. The table follows paragraph 28 of Appendix VI. to Madras Famine Code and prescribes separate fines for each

shortage of 10 per cent. The Government considers that the rule given in paragraph 45 of Appendix D-XIV. to the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Famine Code is much simpler and has manifest advantages over the Madras rule. According to the North-Western Provinces rule, no fine is inflicted if the shortage is 12 per cent. (say one-eighth) and under ; if the shortage is between one-eighth and three-eighths, a fine of one-fourth of the wage is inflicted omitting to deduct fractions of a pice ; if it is between three-eighths and five-eighths, a fine of half the wage is inflicted omitting to deduct fractions of a pice ; and no payments are made for less than half the task, but the work goes to make up the next day's task. The above deductions are subject to the limitation that the wage is not ordinarily reduced below the minimum wage or in cases of deliberate contumacy below the penal wage.

The Government directs that the above rules as to fining should be adopted on all works carried out on the task-work system. The Board of Revenue is requested to submit for approval a table showing the fines for each class of workers when wages are paid daily, for two days at one time, for three days at one time, and so on.

8. *Paragraph* 8 *of the Board's Proceedings—Sub-paragraph* 1.—Section 106 of the Code now requires that the number of persons fined, together with the amounts, shall be entered in the weekly reports by the officer in charge.

9. *Paragraph* 9 *of the Board's Proceedings.*—The Board appears to misread the second sentence of paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 217, dated 10th March, 1900. This sentence does not, like the first sentence and the last sub-paragraph of paragraph 2, refer to the money value of grain wages. Its object is merely to prescribe the amount of dependant's doles, and it is not meant to interfere with existing orders as to the form in which the doles are to be given, whether as an additional money-wage to the worker or in the form of grain doles or cooked food.

No. 150.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.—REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—No. 514, Revenue, dated 25th May, 1900.

In view of the decisions arrived at in the last three Government orders, the following revised instructions are issued in supersession of those contained in G.O., No. 217, Revenue, dated 10th March, 1900, for the classification and tasking of relief workers, and the payment of wages and allowances to them and their dependants.

2. *Classification.*—Relief-workers on task work will be divided into the following classes :—

Special class.—To include all persons in responsible positions or with special qualfications who are paid a uniform wage exceeding by a constant difference that allowed to workers in class I.

Class I.—To include all strong and healthy adult males.

Class II.—To include the older and the more feeble men, immature youths who have completed their fourteenth year, and all women.

Class III.—To include working children who have completed their eighth year but not their fourteenth.

3. The definition of the special class given above is taken from paragraph 445 of the report of the Indian Famine Commission of 1898 and from the remarks made in paragraph 440 of the Commission's report it appears that this class is intended to include mates or heads of gangs or others holding a slightly responsible position, or labourers with special qualifications, such as quarrymen, water-carriers or others whom it is necessary to entertain for the proper control of the labour or prosecution of the work. It also appears from paragraph 440 that it is an essential condition that the wage of labourers returned in the special class should exceed that of class I. by a constant

difference and that no persons who are paid a monthly wage or a daily wage differing from the wages of the prescribed classes should be returned as relief-workers. The Government also observes that in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh this constant difference has been fixed by the Local Government at two pice and in the Central Provinces at one pice.

So far as Government is aware no "special" class, as thus defined, has ever been recognised in this Presidency, and the Government is not sure what class of persons the Commission intends to include in the designation "mates of gangs." The Madras gang maistries must know how to read and write sufficiently to keep muster rolls, and one or two pice extra would probably not suffice to secure the services of competent men. Nor does Government see why a water-carrier should necessarily belong to the special class nor why he should receive the same wage as a quarryman. In these circumstances the Government hesitates to issue specific instructions as to what relief-workers should be placed in the special class, or to fix the difference by which the wage of this class is to exceed that of class I. The Board of Revenue is requested to give its opinion in consultation with Collectors, if necessary, as to what classes of workmen the special class should be held to include and what the constant difference in their wage should be.

4. *Tasks.*—The tasks to be required of the labourers in classes I. II. and III. will be the tasks shown in the tables sanctioned in G.O., No. 215, Revenue, dated 10th March, 1900. No work will be exacted from children below 8 years of age, but children of 8 to 14 will be required to work unless physically unfit.

5. *Wages and allowances.*—The ordinary daily wages, the minimum wages and the penal wages to be paid to workers will be the money value of the amounts of grain shown in Table No. 1 appended, calculated at current prices to the nearest pice in accordance with Table No. II. appended. The rest-day allowances of workers, where the payment of such allowances is authorized by the Board of Revenue will be the same as the minimum wage. Nursing mothers will be paid class II. wage and the allowance of a non-working child under eight years. The allowances to be made to non-working adult and children dependants, when the gratuitous relief of such dependants is sanctioned, are also shown in Table I. appended.

TABLE NO. I.

Class of Workers.	Ordinary Wage in Tolas.	Minimum and Rest-day Wage in Tolas.	Penal Wage in Tolas.	Dependants' Allowance in Tolas.
Special	To exceed that of Class I. by a constant difference.	60	45	—
Class I.	95	60	45	—
Class II.	75	60	45	—
Class III.	50	40	30	—
Dependants and others—				
Class IV. (Adults) ...	—	—	—	60
Class V. (Children) ...	—	—	—	One-fourth to three-fourths of the allowance for adults according to age and requirements.

TABLE NO. II.

Ready Reckoner for Pice Wages.

——	Class I.	Class II.	Class IV. and Minimum for Classes I. and II.	Class III.	Penal Wage for the Special Class and Classes I. and II.	Minimum for Class III.	Penal Wage for Class III.
Wage in Grain.	95 Tolas.	75 Tolas.	60 Tolas.	50 Tolas.	45 Tolas.	40 Tolas.	30 Tolas.
Wage basis in Seers Per Rupee.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
6·0	3 3	2 6	2 0	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0
6·1	3 0	2 6	2 0	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0
6·2	3 0	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 0
6·3	3 0	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 0
6·4	3 0	2 3	2 0	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 0
6·5	3 0	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 6	1 3	1 0
6·6	3 0	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0
6·7	2 9	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0
6·8	2 9	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0
6·9	2 9	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	0 9
7·0	2 9	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 3	0 9
7·2	2 9	2 0	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9
7·4	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9
7·6	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9
7·8	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9
8·0	2 6	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 3	1 0	0 9
8·25	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9
8·50	2 3	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9
8·75	2 3	1 9	1 3	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9
9·0	2 0	1 9	1 3	1 0	1 0	1 0	0 9
9·25	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9
9·50	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9
9·75	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 6
10·0	2 0	1 6	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 6
10·5	1 9	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6
11·0	1 9	1 3	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6
11·5	1 9	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 6
12·0	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 6
12·5	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 6

Ready Reckoner for Pice Wages—continued.

—	Class I.	Class II.	Class IV. and Minimum for Classes I. and II.	Class III.	Penal Wage for the Special Class and Classes I. and II.	Minimum for Class III.	Penal Wage for Class III.
Wage in Grain.	95 Tolas.	75 Tolas.	60 Tolas.	50 Tolas.	45 Tolas.	40 Tolas.	30 Tolas.
Wage basis in Seers Per Rupee.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
13·0	1 6	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6
13·5	1 6	1 0	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6
14·0	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6
14·5	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 6
15·0	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 6
15·5	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 6
16·0	1 3	1 0	0 9	0 9	0 6	0 6	0 6

No. 151.

REPORT BY THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER, MADRAS (F. A NICHOLSON, ESQ., C.I.E.), ON THE DISTRESS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY DURING 1900, AND THE MEASURES TAKEN FOR ITS RELIEF.

The portion of the Presidency in which distress has existed during the present year comprises the greater part of the Deccan districts lying above and to the west of the ghâts, together with a portion of the Nellore and Kistna districts lying east of the ghâts adjoining the Deccan districts to the north east. The normal rainfall of no part of this area exceeds 40 inches per annum, whilst over the great part it is less than 30 inches, and on the west of the area affected the average expected is less than 25 inches. Of this normal rainfall, half, or more than half, usually falls during the south-west monsoon, between June and September, and the bulk of the remainder between October and December; but in the Deccan districts but little rain usually falls after the early days of November. In the affected portions of Nellore and Kistna, however, there is rather more and rather heavier rain usually at this season.

In the year 1899, the rainfall during April and May, before the setting in of the south-west monsoon, was remarkably copious, but except in so far as it improved the water-supplies, and enabled the ryots in places to sow rather larger areas than usual under wells and the like, this rain was of no great agricultural value in the area under reference. In June, the rains were to a great extent a failure, and in July the fall was extremely light, the total fall during these two months being less than that recorded during these months of the year in any other of the last 30 years. The drought continued up to about 10th August, and the result was an extreme delay in the sowings on all the lighter descriptions of land in the Deccan districts and in the upland portions of Kistna. On the date mentioned, good rain fell over the greater part of the Deccan districts, and though the season was late, very extensive sowings were immediately made. This rain was very unevenly distributed, and was followed by more later in the month, which was still more irregular. The August rainfall was, however, on the whole sufficient to carry on the standing crop and to

encourage extensive sowings; and at the beginning of September very heavy rain began to fall in the Deccan districts, which being continued through the month stimulated agricultural operations into great activity. During October the rainfall in the area referred to was light, and the rain ceased very early, little or none falling anywhere during November. The rains, although so light and badly distributed, were made use of very fully by the cultivators. The area sown was not greatly below the normal area except in parts of Kistna and Nellore, but much of the crops sown failed to yield a satisfactory outturn, and a good deal was lost. On the heavier soils of the Deccan, which are usually sown with the September rains, fair crops of cotton and sorghum (*cholam*) were obtained over very considerable areas. Statistics of the rainfall and of the areas sown in the affected area are shown in the appendix so far as they are available. It should, however, be noted that a portion of the Nellore district, in which the situation was very critical, is zamindari, for which no detailed information regarding cultivation is available.

To the north-east of the area dealt with lies the southern portion of the tract protected by the Kistna delta irrigation system, but except for its indirect benefits to the people of the tract adjoining, did not influence the situation.

The following notes show to what extent the crops failed, or were deficient :—

Kistna (*two taluks*).—Area sown deficient by about one-fifth owing to the impossibility of sowing the usual late crop—variga. The principal crops are cholam and cumbu, much of which yielded very poorly.

Nellore, North (*four taluks*).—Area sown was deficient by one-fifth, chiefly under variga, which is usually sown late in the season and was not sown at all. The yield of the chief dry grains, cholam and cumbu, ranged from poor to fair, whilst about one-sixth of the area sown with these two crops failed entirely. Indigo, the chief industrial crop, yielded a poor outturn, about one-third of the extent sown having yielded nothing.

Kurnool, East (*two taluks*).—Area sown deficient by one-eleventh. Yield of the principal dry grains, yellow cholam, arika, korra and horsegram, poor, while that of cumbu was fair. About two-thirds of the area sown with arika and one-third of that under korra failed in Markapur. Of the industrial crops, castor and indigo returned a poor outturn. About a third of the area under castor and about half the extent sown with cotton failed in Markapur. The outturn of cotton in the remaining area was poor.

Central (*four taluks*).—Area sown a little above normal. Yield of cholam (late) and arika was moderate, while korra was poor. Yield of horsegram was fair. Cotton was indifferent and indigo was poor. Castors in Nandyal yielded fairly, though about a third of the area under it failed.

West (*two taluks*).—Area sown nearly normal. The yield of cholam, cumbu, arika and korra was poor. Of the industrial crops, indigo and cotton yielded poorly or nothing, while castors fared moderately. About one-half the area under indigo failed in Ramallakot, where it is chiefly sown.

Beltary, East (*four taluks*).—Area sown a little above normal. Yield of cholam (late) was fair in Adoni and Alur, and poor in the other two taluks. Yield of korra was also poor. A little over one-fourth of the area under cholam and one-third under korra failed in Bellary, while about half the area under the latter yielded nothing in Rayadrug. Cotton yielded a fair outturn in Alur and Adoni, and was poor in the other two taluks.

Anantapur, North (*two taluks*).—Area sown about normal. Yield of cholam was poor. Korra yielded badly. One-third of the area in Gooty taluk and over one-fourth in Tadpatri failed. Cumbu fared poorly in Gooty. Cotton yielded a poor outturn. The yield of castors in Gooty was poor.

Cuddapah, North-east (*three taluks*).—Area sown up to average. Paddy was normal in Pullampet and poor in the other two taluks. Outturn of cumbu and ragi was fair, while cholam and horsegram was poor. The yield of korra was fair in Badvel, though half the area under it failed. Indigo yielded a fair outturn, and cotton and castors was poor. About three-fourths of the area under paddy and two-thirds under horsegram failed in Badvel, while two-thirds of the area under cholam yielded nothing in Sidhout; about half the area under castors also failed.

North-west (*four taluks*).—Area sown deficient by one-ninth. Yield of korra, cholam, cumbu, and horsegram was poor. About half the area under korra failed, the failure being most marked in Jammalamadugu and Pulivendla. One-fourth of the extent under cholam and three-fifths under horsegram also yielded nothing. Pulivendla suffered most. Of the industrial crops, the yield of cotton was fair, though Pulivendla fared worst and indigo was poor.

South (*four taluks*).—Area sown up to average. The yield of cholam and ragi was moderate, while that of cumbu and horsegram was poor. Of the industrial crops, cotton and castors returned a poor outturn; sugarcane was fair. Gingelly was sown on a very small area. About two-thirds of the extent under cumbu, and half that under horsegram failed entirely in Rayachoti. Cotton and castors failed largely in the above taluk, the rest yielded a very poor outturn.

The area affected is almost the same as that which suffered during the third period of distress in 1891-92, and includes a large portion of that in which famine was recognised as existing during 1897. In these circumstances it does not appear necessary to enter on a discussion of the ordinary economic condition of the tract. The only change that has occurred since 1897 which materially affected the area is the opening of the East Coast Railway from Nellore to Bezwada. This railway traverses the eastern edge of the affected area from Ongole to Bapatla. The only great protective irrigation work within the area is the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal, which, however, as it traverses the centre of the Nandyal valley in Kurnool, where the soils are not as a rule suited for the irrigation of paddy, is not usually made full use of. During the season of 1899-1900 water was taken much more extensively than usual, especially for dry and garden crops, as is shown in the abstract below :—

Particulars.	Kurnool, during				Cuddapah, during			
	Fasli 1306.	Fasli 1307.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.	Fasli 1306.	Fasli 1307.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Dry crops	48,038	11,540	9,837	40,758	7,258	5,644	4,161	4,668
Garden crops	4,115	3,988	3,976	6,080	6,942	7,125	9,536	7,163
Wet crops	9,355	7,585	8,825	7,254	3,369	3,400	2,339	4,959
Second crop	4,110	3,396	2,956	3,379	4,039	4,486	7,180	2,966
Total area irrigated	65,618	26,509	25,594	57,471	21,608	20,655	23,216	19,746

Fasli 1306 (1896–7) was the last year of drought. Besides the canal abovementioned two other irrigation works should be mentioned, namely, the Cumbum tank (reservoir) in Kurnool, and the Sagiler project in Cuddapah. The former is a work under which about 5,600 acres of first and 4,900 acres of second crop are usually raised in ordinary years, and which is known to have dried up previously in the year 1892 only. During the season now past it again dried up completely, and the total area of crop raised was only 4,357, while out of a total revenue demand under the work of Rs. 43,346, Rs. 19,998 was remitted. The Sagiler project is a new work designed to tap a river draining an area adjacent to that which feeds the Cumbum tank. During the season under reference Rs, 7,685 were remitted out of a total revenue demand under the work of Rs. 19,586.

Prices.—Almost throughout the Presidency, during the earlier months of 1899, prices had been fairly cheap, although in the southern half of the Presidency rates had not fallen as low as they used to be previous to 1897. In the Deccan and Kistna, the principal staple food-grain (cholam) was decidedly cheap, and in June, 1899, was purchaseable at about 30 seers per rupee generally, and had been rather cheaper in the preceding months. With the failure of the rains in June rates began to rise, and in July a very considerable increase appeared, and the rise continued gradually up to September, which was followed by a sudden jump upwards about October, when a strong demand had set in for the export of this grain and of cumbu, towards the famine-stricken areas in Western and Central India. The rise continued up to November, when scarcity rates (double the normal prices) were recorded in all the Deccan districts except Cuddapah, in which district that level was reached in December. In Kistna and Nellore, the price of cholam did not rise quite so rapidly or so soon, and in Nellore, it was not till January that extreme rates were reached. From

December to February, prices in the affected area were on the whole fairly steady, but there was another rise in March, after which rates remained steady at an extremely high level until August, 1900, when a slight fall occurred, but in that month and in September prices for this grain were still considerably above the scarcity rates in all the affected districts, whilst almost throughout the Presidency the prices of the staple food-grains were from April to September as dear as or dearer than in the corresponding months of 1897. In the case of rice, however, it is only in the southern half of the Presidency and on the West Coast that rates have been dearer than in 1897. The characteristic of the past season has been the extremely high general level of prices and the levelling up that has occurred under the influence not only of very considerable local failure of crop, but of an enormous and unusual export of food-grains to other provinces. The main facts may be gleaned from the following statement showing the results, for the Presidency as a whole, of the grain trade during the six months ending in March, 1900, as compared with similar particulars for seven half-years preceding :—

Particulars.		September, 1896.	March, 1897.	September, 1897.	March, 1898.	September, 1898.	March, 1899.	September, 1899.	March, 1900.
		Hundreds of Tons.							
Paddy ...	Imports	28,4	25,9	28,0	59,4	61.9	60,3	43,1	58,7
	Exports	30,6	25,5	30,0	23,2	25,7	26,3	31,1	25,1
Net Imports		— 2,2	0,4	— 2,0	36,2	36,2	34,0	12,0	33,6
Rice ...	Imports	34.9	24,7	14,7	95,6	59,1	75,9	53,4	90,8
	Exports	103,1	128,5	117,5	93,6	62,8	+ 67,7	83,4	139,9
Net Exports		68,2	103,8	102,8	+ 2,0	3,7	+ 8,2	30,0	49,1
Deduct Equivalent of Paddy as Rice		— 1,5	0,3	— 1,3	24,1	24,1	22,6	8,0	22,4
Net Exports as Rice		69,7	103,5	104,1	+ 26,1	+ 20,4	+ 30,8	22,0	26,7
Other grains ...	Imports	50,6	37,0	39,6	56,1	75,9	58,9	45,0	31,9
	Exports	18,1	55,8	73,1	19,6	12,3	11,6	38,7	162,7
Net Imports		32,5	— 17,9	— 33,5	+ 36,5	+ 63,6	+ 47,3	+ 6,3	—130,8
Total ...	Imports	...	...	...	62,6	84,0	78,1	...	...
	Exports	37,2	121,4	137,6	...	...	...	15,7	157,5

The extraordinarily large balance of grain exported is the more remarkable, because in normal years the Presidency has for a long while past shown a balance of imports. Similar results attended the grain trade of the Presidency during the bad year 1896–97, but the balance was never so large. The increased balance of exports appears under grains other than paddy or rice, and consisted mainly of cholam and cumbu drawn away for supply to the part of Western India where distress was very severe. The net exports of rice, both for the half-year ending in March and for the whole official year 1899–1900, were in no way remarkable, but in the case of other grains, not only were the exports phenomenal, but the usual large imports of grain, chiefly ragi, from Mysore, dwindled to a comparatively small figure.

The areas chiefly drawn on for the increased exports were the Kistna and Godavari deltas, the Deccan, and the Central Districts. From the two first-mentioned areas the grain was despatched direct by rail ; from the latter by rail to Calicut and thence by sea. Owing to the largely increased exports of cholam and cumbu from Malabar, the balance of the sea-borne trade of the West

Coast was much decreased, In reality the usual sea-borne imports of paddy and rice into Malabar were maintained.

The balance of exports set in during the second quarter of the official year 1899–1900, and was maintained for nine months, as will be seen in the following abstract of the results of the trade in respect of food stuff :—

Particulars.		During the Quarter ending				
		30th June, 1899.	30th September, 1899.	31st December, 1899.	31st March, 1900.	30th June, 1900.
		Hundreds of Tons.				
Paddy	Imports	333	97	90	500	756
	Exports	152	158	89	162	137
	Net Imports	+ 181	— 61	+ 1	+ 338	+ 619
Rice	Imports	452	82	227	682	627
	Exports	457	377	681	718	548
	Net Exports	5	295	454	36	+ 79
Deduct Equivalent of Paddy as Rice		+ 121	— 41	+ 1	+ 225	+ 413
	Net Exports as Rice	+ 116	336	453	+ 189	+ 492
Other grains ...	Imports	247	203	125	187	241
	Exports	86	302	970	658	455
	Net Imports	161	— 99	— 845	— 471	— 214
Total	Imports	277	...	...	...	278
	Exports	...	435	1,298	282	...

The return to a more normal state of things, so far as the Presidency as a whole is concerned, was largely due to considerable imports by sea into the East Coast districts, and by quite exceptionally large imports into the West Coast districts. The exports by rail from the deltas and the Deccan districts continued during the last three months referred to on a very large scale, but the grain shipped from the deltas fell off largely. Statements are given in the appendix showing the net results of the grain trade, without allowance being made for the food equivalent of paddy as rice, which show in detail how different parts of the Presidency were affected.

Recovery.—It was not until nearly the end of May, 1900, that any material improvement in the outlook occurred. On the eighty-first birthday of Her Majesty the Queen Empress, good and propitious showers fell in many places in the Deccan districts. The ryots at once made the most of this favourable opening of the agricultural year and sowings proceeded apace. The south-west monsoon rainfall was not, however, altogether favourable, for though on the whole the fall was about the normal in quantity, its distribution was more than usually irregular and the falls spasmodic. Sowings have been, however, made over a much wider area than usual in almost all parts of the districts which were affected during the previous season, and the reports that have so far come in regarding the harvests of the early crops that are now proceeding are altogether favourable.

Reasons for apprehending that relief might be necessary.—As pointed out by the framers of the first Madras Famine Code, the proximate cause of famine is the failure of a succession of harvests resulting from insufficient or untimely rainfall. Such failures cause a slackness in the demand for labour, and lead to a great enhancement of the price of grain. Thus, the landless classes and field labourers lose their employment, and with the loss of means of purchasing food are coupled higher prices.

The distress which affected a large portion of the Presidency during 1896 and 1897 was only brought to an end comparatively late in the year 1897, whilst in a portion of the Nellore district distress continued and works were open until the middle of 1898. In the latter year, also, in parts of the Cuddapah district the holding off of the usual south-west monsoon rains gave cause for anxiety, but on the whole the agricultural year of 1898–99 was a favourable one, and in some places a bumper harvest was secured.

In 1899, the season was, however, as already described, extremely unfavourable, and the local shortage of the crops, coupled with an extremely active demand for grain for export, forced up prices to as high a level as that reached in 1896–97. Employment for the field labourers was much limited, and it therefore became a question whether the poorer classes would be able to face without assistance the usual long "dead season" in rural tracts after the scanty harvests had been secured.

When this appeared to be the case, and prices were already double the normal rates, it was determined to test the question by opening works on which a subsistence wage was offered in return for the performance of a reasonable task. For reasons chiefly connected with the simplicity of the system and ease of management, it was decided to adopt a system of limited piece-work at rates calculated to enable the workers by diligence to earn rather more than the bare subsistence wage recommended by the Famine Commission of 1898. For this purpose works were opened in the several districts and taluks specified on the dates mentioned—

District.	Taluk.	Date of Opening First Test-work.
Cuddapah	Proddattur	20th February, 1900
	Jammalamadugu	2nd March „
	Pulivendla	1st February „
	Kadiri	5th „ „
Anantapur	Tadpatri	5th March „
Bellary	Adóni	21st February „
Kurnool	Pattikonda	11th April, 1900.
	Ramallakota	9th „ „
	Nandyal	9th March „
	Koilkuntla	3rd April „
	Cumbum	20th March „
	Markapur	20th „ „
Kistna	Vinukonda	11th „ „
	Narasaraopet	7th „ „
Nellore	Ongole	25th February, 1900.
	Kanigiri	12th „ „

The works were designed to test the reality of the distress which was reported to exist in the districts mentioned, as shown by the following statement of the areas and population reported from month to month by the Collectors as being affected.

Months.	Cuddapah.		Anantapur.		Bellary.		Kurnool.	
	Area.	* Population.	Area.	* Population.	Area.	* Population.	Area.	* Population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Square Miles.		Square Miles.		Square Miles.		Square Miles.	
February, 1900 ...	1,487	177	—	—	—	—	1,130	200
March „ ...	1,487	177	641	113	144	20	1,250	218
April „ ...	1,827	230	641	113	144	20	1,250	218
May „ ...	1,821	229	641	113	144	20	1,250	218
June „ ...	1,821	229	641	113	71	12	1,250	218
July „ ...	1,462	195	89	14	—	—	1,175	210
August „ ...	1,462	195	—	—	—	—	—	—

Months.	Nellore.		Kistna.		Total.	
	Area.	* Population.	Area.	* Population.	Area.	* Population.
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Square Miles.		Square Miles.		Square Miles.	
February, 1900 ...	2,460	359	—	—	5,077	736
March „ ...	2,027	334	964	217	6,513	1,079
April „ ...	2,027	334	964	217	6,853	1,132
May „ ...	2,027	334	964	217	6,847	1,131
June „ ...	2,027	334	964	217	6,774	1,123
July „ ...	—	—	964	217	3,690	636
August „ ...	—	—	964	217	2,426	412

* In thousands.

Of the areas referred to above, that shown against Nellore was merely threatened, but it may be said that an area of about 6,500 square miles with a population of about a million was affected, and that there was great danger that a much larger area would become involved. These areas take no cognizance of portions of districts outside the surveyed villages in the case of Cuddapah, Anantapur and Kurnool. In the other cases definite portions of the districts were treated as affected.

Nature of the works selected.—In a majority of cases the works selected were irrigation works, the execution of which was desirable, and which would in several cases have been undertaken irrespective of the question of distress. In eight cases road works were undertaken, but these also were necessary

works. The following is a summary of the expenditure incurred on each class of work :—

District.	Irrigation.		Roads.		Total Expenditure.
	Number.	Expenditure.	Number.	Expenditure.	
		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Cuddapah	10	36,046	2	9,737	45,783
Anantapur	1	19,432	—	—	19,432
Bellary	2	4,102	1	6	4,108
Kurnool	13	16,517	4	9,057	25,574
Nellore	2	59	1	1,596	1,655
Kistna	6	14,829	—	—	14,829
Total ...	34	90,985	8	20,396	1,11,381
Add general charges for supervision and tools and plant ...					54,674
Grand Total					1,66,055

From the subjoined table showing the average number of persons employed on the test-works in each month of the period, it will be seen that the totals never amounted to any considerable figure, although for four months they exceeded 10,000. The largest number on test works was reported during the week ending 7th July, 1900, and amounted to 14,416.

Months.	Workers in						Total Workers.
	Cuddapah.	Anantapur.	Bellary.	Kurnool.	Nellore.	Kistna.	
February	1,931	—	—	—	13	—	1,944
March	1,955	503	380	832	8	1,024	3,702
April	4,356	723	467	3,466	161	979	10,152
May	4,810	1,422	311	3,141	312	1,383	11,379
June	3,648	1,922	552	3,697	129	1,441	11,389
July	4,129	2,398	—	2,494	—	1,377	10,398
August	1,774	1,302	—	702	—	1,219	4,997.

These workers are classified according to age and sex as follows :—

District.	Total Number of Workers.			Equivalent in Child Units.	Wage Earned Per Child Unit.
	Men.	Women.	Children.		
					Pies.
Cuddapah	278,610	332,730	69,930	1,126,245	7·8
Anantapur	102,960	126,000	19,140	414,060	9·0
Bellary	23,340	24,840	3,120	87,060	9·1
Kurnool...	131,700	249,480	48,780	686,400	7·2
Nellore	10,320	7,650	750	32,865	9·6
Kistna	114,450	97,290	11,550	386,385	7·4
Total	661,380	837,990	153,270	2,733,015	7·8

The proportion of adults and of men who resorted to the works was much higher than has been usually the case, and this is attributed chiefly to the form —piece-work—in which relief was offered, and the absence of the temptingly high wages for children prescribed in the Code.

For the purpose of the last two columns of this table the equivalents assumed are 1 man = 1½ women = 2 children, which are appoximately the proportions borne by the grain wages of classes I., II. and III., respectively, of relief workers. At the price of grain by which wages were regulated the normal wage of a relief worker at the task-work system would have been about 9 pies per child unit, and at the limited piece-work rates adopted on most of the works the maximum earnable about 13 pies per child unit. The reason why the full wage was not earned in three districts was that the people, with a lively recollection of the relief measures of 1897 in mind, were loath to exert themselves, and in not a few instance expected and demanded a "minimum wage" in return for little or no work.

The next table shows how far the works carried out were executed economically—

Districts.	Irrigation Works.		Communications.		Total.		
	Expenditure.	Value of Work done.	Expenditure.	Value of Work done.	Expenditure.	Value of Work done.	
						Amount.	Per cent. of Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Cuddapah	36,046	42,369	9,737	9,896	45,783	52,265	114
Anantapur	19,432	22,296	—	—	19,432	22,296	115
Bellary	4,102	4,118	6	—	4,108	4,118	100
Kurnool	16,517	14,954	9,057	10,543	25,574	25,497	100
Nellore	59	75	1,596	1,955	1,655	2,030	123
Kistna	14,829	18,835	—	—	14,829	18,835	127
Total	90,985	1,02,647	20,396	22,394	1,11,381	1,25,041	112
Add general charges for supervision, tools and plant, &c.					54,674	—	—
Grand Total, Expenditure ...					1,66,055	—	—

Works were carried out on the intermediate system, and there was but slight opportunity for comparing it with the task-work system, as desired by Government. There appears to be a general consensus of opinion that the piece-work system, being simple and elastic, is well adapted for a scarcity or partial famine—special care, however, being taken to provide for inefficients—but that for a serious or intense famine with many weakly persons, the task-work system is preferable. But regarding piece-work, opinion strongly differs as to whether the maximum should or should not be done away with. The

Public Works Department, with its practical experience in dealing with works and labourers, would do away with the maximum and leave the officers in charge to prevent the earning of excessive wages by reducing rates; Mr. Morin, Executive Engineer in Cuddapah, states the case with clearness and ability. On the other hand, the Revenue officers, except the Collector of Cuddapah, desire the retention of the maximum, since they doubt the effect or feasibility of altering rates whenever occasion requires; they consider that works would be too rapidily used up, and they point out that the maximum is an essential in a system of relief which is intended to provide only a bare subsistence allowance for workers and their dependants, and that the maximum suffices for this purpose. Full discussion of the point is desirable.

From the experience gained on this occasion it would seem that when test-works are so sparsely attended, notwithstanding local expectations, as in Cuddapah, it would be well to close them at an earlier date and revert to ordinary works and methods if such works are actually and sufficiently available within the test area.

Relief to weavers.—Besides the measures mentioned above, it was found necessary to afford relief to a community of weavers of cotton head-cloths who live in part of the north-western portion of Cuddapah in or near the town of Jammalamadugu. The wares of these weavers usually find a sale in parts of the Bombay Presidency and the Central Provinces, and during the past year, owing to the state of the season in those parts, the demand for these wares almost entirely ceased. The community suffered severely during the season of 1896–7, and were then relieved at their own craft, as it was found impossible to employ them satisfactorily except in that way. Food-grains had in January, 1900 risen to nearly double their usual prices locally, and it was determined to offer relief on a system of limited piece-work based upon task-tables worked out on the experience obtained in 1897. For this purpose a scale of rates for labour was laid down, and advances of yarn were made on behalf of Government to those weavers who, on local enquiry, were found to be in need. When the work for which yarn was advanced was completed, the weavers were paid wages at the prescribed scale and fresh advances of yarn were made to them. Operations were begun during the first week of February, 1900, and continued up to September 14th when the last advances were made. The exact number of persons relieved by this means cannot be stated, but computing the numbers in proportion to the number of men and women laid down in the task-tables for the work undertaken the average numbers on relief were as follows:—

Month.	Number.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.
February	999	795	1,794
March	1,905	1,513	3,418
April	2,040	1,622	3,662
May	2 012	1,602	3,614
June	1,723	1,371	3,094
July	1,701	1,350	3,051
August	1,728	1,370	3,098
September	1,605	1,277	2,882
Average	1,714	1,362	3,076

The expenditure incurred on this form of relief and the recoveries made up to the end of November 1900 were as follow :—

Expenditure.	Rs.	Recoveries.	Rs.
Yarn purchased	73,942	By sale of cloths	86,589
Wages paid	29,773	Resale of yarn, etc.	3,238
Establishment charges ...	1,270	Sundries	20
Sundries	2,272	Total ...	89,847
		Value of stock on hand ...	11,471
		Balance to debit	5,939
Total ...	107,257	Total ...	107,257

The wages paid average 7·8 pies per head per diem as compared with one anna the minimum wage allowed for a Class II. worker under the latest orders, with grain at the level it ruled at during the season now passed. The lowness of the wage earned was due to the fact that in a very considerable number of cases the weavers took considerably longer than the periods laid down to complete the weaving for which yarn was advanced to them.

The recoveries already made, including value of stock on hand, amount to 97 per cent. of the expenditure on wages and materials, and to 94 per cent. of the gross expenditure. In such operations, where sales have to be made in the open market, and the goods are not passed on at a book valuation to other departments, the contingencies on which realizations depend are numerous. In this case, it may be safely said that the relief given was most economically administered, the net cost to Government being about four annas per head per month. Had the weavers displayed more energy and greater promptitude at their work, the results would have been still more economical. Some part of the expenditure over and above the cost of wages and materials was caused by the necessity for transferring the woven goods from Jammalamadugu to Cuddapah for storage.

Other measures of relief.—These embraced remissions and suspensions of revenue and the distribution of loans for land improvements and other purposes. The scale on which the latter operations were conducted is shown in the following table :—

District.	Land Improvement Loans Disbursed During		Agriculturist Loans Disbursed During	
	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kistna	575	2,713	400	1,200
Nellore	17,963	18,578	12,334	3,713
Kurnool	7,000	1,57,970	1,120	10,860
Bellary	8,708	15,660	50	2,605
Anantapur	12,434	8,315	415	1,920
Cuddapah	9,922	16,118	1,170	3,275
Total	56,602	2,19,354	15,489	23,573

The figures show that loans for land improvements were more freely taken than in the previous year, and especially was this the case in Kurnool. The smaller demand for loans in Anantapur is not explained. The operations would probably have been larger had the funds available been greater.

The main purpose for which loans were granted was for the sinking or repair of wells, except in Bellary, where the bulk of the amount advanced was for the reclamation of land. In Nellore the demand for loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was restricted to two taluks. The main purpose for which loans were granted in this district was for the purchase of fodder in the Ongole taluk. The following abstract shows the purposes for which loans were advanced in fasli 1309 :—

Districts.	Land Improvement Loans Act.				Agriculturist Loans Act.			
	Construction or repair of wells.	Land reclamation.	Other purposes.	Total.	Purchase of fodder.	Purchase of cattle.	Other purposes.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kistna	2,263	250	200	2,713	400	800	—	1,200
Kurnool ...	58,700	44,215	55,025	1,57,940	6,896	3,864	50	10,810
Bellary ..	1,480	14,130	50	15,660	—	1,094	1,511	2,605
Anantapur ...	7,135	200	980	8,315	—	1,920	—	1,920
Cuddapah ...	14,030	2,080	8	16,118	61	3,214	—	3,275
Nellore ...	18,403	175	—	18,578	2,833	830	50	3,713

Remissions.—These were granted under the usual rules in the case of wet lands, and in respect of dry lands in special cases. The amount that was granted owing to the state of the season in the tracts affected may be gauged from the following statement :—

District	Remissions Granted.					
	Dry.		Wet.		Total.	
	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.	Fasli 1308.	Fasli 1309.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Kistna	—	—	3,205	19,429	3,205	19,429
Nellore	—	—	1,417	65,893	1,417	65,893
Kurnool	—	31,759	29,528	90,312	29,528	1,22,071
Bellary	1,331	14,513	11,313	11,878	12,644	26,391
Anantapur	21,811	57,335	66,159	64,105	87,970	1,21,440
Cuddapah	12,395	63,156	93,532	2,75,655	1,05,927	3,38,811
Total	35,537	1,66,763	2,05,154	5,27,272	2,40,691	6,94,035

Remissions on dry waste or for loss of produce on dry land were granted in fasli 1308 in portions of the Cuddapah, Anantapur and Bellary districts where dry crops suffered from untimely rainfall. Large remissions for wet waste in the Deccan districts in that year were necessary owing to the scanty

rainfall and to short supplies in the irrigation sources. The result is that the remissions granted in fasli 1309 do not appear so exceptional as they otherwise would ; but altogether a sum of Rs. 4,40,048 was remitted for waste or loss of crop.

Having in view the extensive loss of crop and continued bad seasons in the four north-western taluks of Cuddapah, a sum of Rs. 56,345, representing old arrears, and another of Rs. 6,386, being penal rates levied for unauthorized tank-bed cultivation in fasli 1307, were written off in order to relieve the pressure of the ryots.

In addition to the above, postponement or suspension of collections was granted in the following cases :—

District.	Suspended or Postponed Amount.	Period.
	Rs.	
Kistna	2,91,890	Until fasli 1310.
Nellore (Ongole)	1,58,679	
Kurnool	2,34,543	
Bellary	20,293	
Anantapur	39,372	
Cuddapah	72,044	
Total	8,16,821	

The collection of these sums will be made with the land revenue for the current year.

Result on the people.—Owing to the limited extent and intensity of actual distress the effect on the people in general has been but slight, and even in the affected areas actual distress in its technical sense was, in general, limited to a proportion of the labouring classes, though, to all except those who had grain to sell, the high prices and grave shortage of crops caused a sharp pinch, considerable stint and serious loss of prospective profits ; to many, however, the high prices, following as in many parts on an excellent year in 1898-99, meant prosperity. Owing, moreover, to the fact that, except in moderate areas the early crops were moderately good and the later chiefly failed at the earing stage, and to the general existence of surplus fodder from the previous abundant year the cattle suffered but little more than in ordinary hot weathers ; only in some areas, such as parts of North Nellore and the neighbouring uplands of Kistna, was there any notable trouble.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Relief Works opened in Jhansi District only.

No. 152.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 28TH APRIL, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

RUPEES 549 has been collected during the month from private subscription in the Jhansi city for the relief of *parda nashin* women and infirm persons. Two hundred and ninety-seven persons relieved on Saturday, the 28th. Four relief circles are open and four *naib* tahsildars are deputed to help village relief. Two poorhouses are open. There were 68 inmates in the Jhansi poorhouse and 40 in Mahroni on Saturday. Four relief works are open, and a fifth will be started soon at Lalitpur. There were 2,407 persons on works on Saturday. Physical condition of people good. No death reported from starvation. Markets well stocked. Import exceeds export. Harvesting of crops completed. Extra crops in good condition, but *mahua* (*Bassia latifolia*) has largely failed. Task 100—85 cubic feet on 13-*ser* basis. There were 62 persons of Gwalior, 357 of Orcha, 8 of Ajmer, 1 of Datia, and 5 of Khanya Dhana on all works during the month. Twenty-five persons of Native States were relieved in the poorhouses of Jhansi Mahroni.

No. 153.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 26TH MAY, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

RUPEES 602 has been collected during the month from private subscription in the Jhansi city, and 268 persons relieved gratuitously on Saturday, the 26th. Four relief circles are open, and two special *naib* tahsildars are looking after their proper arrangement; the third *naib* tahsildar, who is working at Sumera tank, will be deputed to help in village relief in parganas Maraura and Balabehat of Lalitpur sub-division as soon as he is relieved by a *naib* tahsildar expected from Gorakhpur Division. Two poorhouses are open. There were 104 inmates in the Jhansi poorhouse and 43 in Mahroni on Saturday. Sanction to the closing of works and poorhouses has been asked for from 15th June next, or subsequent date on which the monsoon may become well established. Five relief works are open. There were 1,641 persons on all works on Saturday. Physical condition of people good. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets well stocked. Import continues. Extra crops doing well and being cut. Fields being prepared for *kharif*. Task 100—85 cubic feet on 13-*ser* basis. There were 31 persons from Native States in two poorhouses. Fourteen persons of Gwalior, 162 of Orcha, 4 of Kherria (Saugor district), and 9 of Khaniya Dhana on all works during the month.

No. 154.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

RUPEES five hundred and forty-five, annas eight, and pies six has been collected during the month from private subscription in Jhansi City for the relief of distressed *pardah nashin* women and infirm persons. Three hundred and twenty-eight persons relieved from it on Saturday. Of Rs. 25,000 received from the Central Executive Committee, Rs. 1,000 has been placed at the disposal of the pargana officer, Jhansi, for the help of the distressed in Jhansi City. Four village relief circles are open, and three *naib* tahsildars are deputed to look after them. Seven hundred and seventy-five persons relieved gratuitously on Saturday. Numbers are increasing, and the relief circles will be extended if the rain still holds off till the 15th July next. Two poorhouss are open. There were 138 inmates in the Jhansi poorhouse and 91 in Mahroni on Saturday. Five relief works under Public Works Department agency are open. There were 1,685 persons on all works on Saturday. Physical condition of people good. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets well stocked. Import continues. Harvesting of extra crops completed. Fields are being prepared for *kharif* in places. Task, 100—85 cubic feet on 13-*ser* basis. Proposals for change to an 11-*ser* basis have been made and task reduced to 85 cubic feet everywhere. Thirty-one inmates of the poorhouses and 111 persons on all works during the month were residents of Native States.

No. 155.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 28TH JULY, 1900.

JHANSI DISTRICT.

TOTAL collection from private subscription during the month was Rs. 516-4-3. Three hundred and forty-five persons relieved charitably on Saturday, the 28th, in the Jhansi City. Four relief circles are open, and three special *naib* tahsildars are looking after them. One thousand one hundred and three persons were relieved gratuitously on Saturday. Relief circles at Jhansi and Moth will be closed from 7th August, 1900, the paupers receiving 15 days dole on that date. Two poorhouses are open. There were 216 inmates in the Jhansi poorhouse, and 35 in Mahroni on Saturday. Chirgaon-Baghera work was closed on 21st; Babina-Badanpur road and Sumera tank on 27th; Richa-Rasoi tank and Maraura tank on 28th. All the five works are now closed. Physical condition of people good. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets full. Import still continues. Sowing and weeding of *kharif* in progress. Crops germinated well.

No. 156.

Notes of a Conference held by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, and Chief Commissioner of Oudh, at Cawnpore, on the 28th July, 1900, regarding famine relief measures in the Jhansi District.

PRESENT :

Mr. E. B. ALEXANDER, Commissioner, Allahabad Division.
„ J. H. SIMPSON. Collector of Jhansi.
„ C. A. SILBERRAD, Joint Magistrate, in charge of the Lalitpur Sub-Division.
„ A. H. ASHTON, District Engineer, Jhansi.
Honourable Mr. R. G. HARDY, C.S.I., Chief Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

RELIEF works in the Jhansi District commenced on 2nd October, 1899, when the repairs of the Talbehat-Pura road were undertaken. On the 11th December two fresh works were started—the Babina-Badanpur and the Chirgaon-Baghera roads. On 1st February, 1900, the Maraura tank was opened, and on the 11th May, 1900, work was commenced on the Sumera tank. At no time were there more than five relief works in progress, but, when the work on the Talbehat-Pura road was closed early in April, 1900, it was replaced by the work on the Rasoi tank. Similarly, when the Chirgaon-Baghera road was completed in March, fresh work was undertaken at the Barwai tank. All these works are now closed, the Barwai tank on 21st July, the remaining works by orders issued on the 27th July.

The adequate rain which had fallen throughout the district rendered it unnecessary to keep the works open. Before the works were closed, it was noticed that the workpeople were mostly women and children of villages adjoining the works. The men who were employed in digging had gone off to field work.

From the opening to the closing of the works Rs. 60,000 in round numbers had been expended. The works carried out measured 7,095,482 cubic feet, the incidence of cost being Rs. 8 per 1,000 cubic feet. The total number of units employed was 480,067 ; of these 129,750 were men, 231,047 women, and 119,270 children. The incidence per unit per diem amounted to 2 annas. This incidence appears high, but it must be remembered that the works were carried out on the scarcity system, which excludes the minimum wage, and makes no provision for dependants. Tasks were laid down preventing the labourers from earning more than the ration prescribed by the Code for class and sex. The amount earned per diem per labourer was 11 pies, the remaining 13 pies representing the cost of the establishment, equipment, tools and plant. The proportionate cost of establishment was high, but, though the establishment was reduced to a minimum strength after the numbers on relief showed no tendency to increase, it was still sufficient to have controlled six times as many labourers as attended on the works. Though five works were open, yet the maximum number never exceeded 3,300 labourers on any one day. The cost of the works, Rs. 8 per 1,000 cubic feet, is high, but not so high as it appears, and not more than double the ordinary rate. The works were carried on in localities where the extreme hardness of the ground and in some cases the long lead made Rs. 4 per 1,000 cubic feet an ordinary rate.

There were no deaths from starvation, nor was there any kitchen establishment in connection with the works. In a few cases only were signs of emaciation visible among the labourers.

To supplement the relief afforded on works by the Public Works Department, village relief was started towards the end of January, 1900, and four circles were formed, worked under the direct supervision of the pargana officers. Three of these circles were under the charge of *naib* tahsildars ; the fourth was under the charge of the tahsildar of Moth.

Initial lists of persons requiring relief were prepared by *patwaris*, these lists being subsequently thoroughly checked. Payment to distressed persons was made daily by the *lambardars*, the latter receiving advances every ten days.

Immediately prior to the closure of the works, there were 869 persons in receipt of village relief. Since the closure of these works, village relief has naturally expanded, the numbers rising to 1,200. The numbers of persons on village relief were swollen to a certain extent by the return from the Saugor District of persons who had left their homes in Lalitpur, attracted by the easier work and higher scale of wages in force in the Saugor District. While wages were on a 13-*ser* per rupee basis, and tasks were 100 cubic feet in Jhansi, the corresponding rates in Saugor are understood to have been 11 *sers* and 80 cubic feet. Some 1,700 persons were brought back from Saugor to Lalitpur; the majority of them were employed on works in the Jhansi District, and about 100 brought on to village relief.

In His Honour's opinion it will be necessary to maintain village relief until the 15th September, when the lists should be closed, 15 days' rations being given to persons whose names are then on the lists.

To supplement the assistance afforded by relief works and village relief, poorhouses were established in Jhansi in November, 1899, and in Mahroni in January, 1900. Prior to the closure of the works the poorhouses had 350 inmates, the number at the Jhansi poorhouse being swelled by immigrants from Gwalior, who, though once sent back to their homes, found their way back to the Jhansi poorhouse. In His Honour's opinion it will be necessary to keep these poorhouses open until after the closure of village relief.

In addition to the direct relief afforded by Government, some large works —tanks, *bandhs*, and wells—were undertaken by landlords, who borrowed Rs. 6,000 from Government for the purpose, and spent about 50 per cent. in addition. Seventy-five per cent. of the advances made by Government will be recovered from the landlords. These works gave employment to a considerable number of poor persons near their villages, and helped to meet a good deal of local distress.

In the town of Lalitpur considerable railway works were undertaken, which gave work to labourers at the time it was much needed.

The only large towns in the Jhansi District are Jhansi itself and Mau Ranipur. In these local subscriptions were raised to meet the requirements of *parda nashin* women. A grant of Rs. 1,000 was made from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and was supplemented by local subscriptions. The Fund made in all a donation of Rs. 25,000 to the district; Rs. 22,000 is being expended in purchasing cattle and seed, Rs. 2,000 in purchasing clothes.

In reviewing the operations as a whole, the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the relief was carefully and adequately administered, and that it was sufficient. The circumstances were such that, if a firm control had not been exercised, abuses might easily have crept in. The Collector, Mr. Hope Simpson, and the Sub-Divisional Officer of Lalitpur, Mr. Silberrad, deserve the thanks of Government for their successful administration. The Executive Engineer, Mr. Aikman, who was in May compelled by ill-health to go on leave, and the District Engineer, Mr. Ashton, have also worked carefully and well; and their services call for very favourable recognition. Had the rains held off, it would have been necessary to formerly declare the district distressed. Fortunately opportune rain fell, and His Honour agrees with the local officers that further relief works are now unnecessary.

In conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to acknowledge the Commissioner, Mr. Alexander's services in connection with these relief measures. Ever conscientious and painstaking, Mr. Alexander, was, however, at times disposed to subordinate economical considerations to what he regarded as the dictates of humanity. But in the administration of famine relief the true interests of the people lie in the preservation of their habits of industry and self-reliance; and this all important requirement is far more likely to be found

in a policy of economy in the distribution of relief than in a policy of profusion. It is, of course, understood that the saving of human life is a postulate in all cases.

A further memorandum will be recorded after the closure of all relief in September next.

No. 157.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 25TH AUGUST, 1900.
JHANSI DISTRICT.

The collection from private subscription during the month was Rs. 550–4–0. Three hundred and fourty-four persons received charitable relief on Saturday, the 25th August 1900, in the Jhansi city. Two relief circles at Lalitpur and Mahroni are open, and two special *naib* tahsildars are in charge of them. One thousand and sixty-four persons were relieved gratuitously on Saturday. Two poorhouses are open : there were 130 inmates in Jhansi and 98 in Mahroni on Saturday. Physical condition of people good, but cholera was reported from Jhansi, Mau, Lalitpur, Bansi, and Talbehat parganas during the month. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets full. Import and export continue. Sowing is nearly finished, and weeding in progress. Crops germinated well. Barley and maize are being eaten in South Lalitpur, and the small millet ought to be ripe within ten days, and will certainly be so if a break, which is now wanted, occurs.

No. 158.

REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900.
JHANSI DISTRICT.

The collection from private subscription during the month was Rs. 196–4–0. Three hundred and forty-three persons were relieved charitably on Saturday, the 29th September 1900, in the Jhansi city. The village relief of North Lalitpur was closed on the 31st August, 1900, and of South Lalitpur on the 15th September, 1900. Two poorhouses are open : there were 91 inmates in Jhansi and 25 in Mahroni on Saturday. Physical condition of people fair. Sporadic cholera was reported from Jhansi, Lalitpur, and Talbahat parganas, and fever generally. No deaths reported from starvation. Markets full. Import and export continue. Prospects excellent. Cutting of early millets and maize in progress.

No. 159.

Letter from R. G. Hardy, Esq., C. S. I., Chief Secretary to the Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 568, *dated Naini Tal, the* 5*th October*, 1901.

I am directed to state, for the information of the Government of India, that as the monsoon shewed signs of closing prematurely, the Lieutenant-Governor early in September called for reports from Commissioners of Divisions by 25th September on the agricultural situation. The reports were to be based

on the assumption that no more rain would fall before November and were to show the prospects of the Kharif harvest and of the Rabi sowings. Commissioners were also asked whether in any considerable tract of any district such failure as would necessitate relief measures was anticipated.

2. Good rain fell during the last week of September, the effect of which was not fully known when the Commissioners sent in their reports. Further information was therefore called for regarding the Meerut and Agra Divisions, the Northern portions of the Rohilkhand Division, and the South of the Mirzapur district, where the original reports indicated that some pressure was probable. The further reports received are, on the whole, of a re-assuring character. In the Meerut Division a ten anna kharif crop is anticipated by the local officers: but in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion it may be better. Taqavi may be needed for the rabi sowings, and in the low lying riverain tracts which have been injured by floods, and in the hilly country, suspensions and possibly remissions of revenue may be necessary. Further, in the Meerut Division as a whole the cultivators are a substantial body of men. In the Western parts of the Rohilkhand Division, the rain-fall has been inadequate and suspensions of revenue will be necessary. In Mirzapur, the prospects in which were not good, rain has fallen, and prospects have improved. It is only in the Muttra district of the Agra Division that the pressure is likely to be of a nature to require assistance. This district, it will be remembered, suffered from short rainfall in 1900 also: but showed great powers of resistance to distress in that year. The construction of the Mat Branch Canal extension will give the necessary employment to persons seeking labour, and I am to say, that the project for this work, the cost of which is estimated at nine lakhs, will shortly be submitted to the Government of India and steps have already been taken to start the earth-work whenever necessary.

3. I am to add, that the Commissioners of Meerut, Agra and Rohilkhand are being called upon to submit reports, as required by article 24 of the Famine Code (Provisional Issue) in regard to the areas in their respective divisions, regarding which anxiety has been felt. A further communication will, if necessary, be submitted for the information of the Government of India. But the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner is not himself apprehensive that difficulties of much magnitude will have to be encountered even in the areas of least rainfall.

BENGAL.

FORECASTS AND REPORTS.

No. 160.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 214, *Agriculture (Famine), dated Calcutta, the* 13*th January*, 1900.

In compliance with the orders contained in your letter No. 2—49-41F., of 19th December, 1899, and in continuation of this Government's letter, No. 951T.—R., of 9th November, 1899, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the following report on the agricultural situation, crop prospects, and famine relief requirements of Bengal.

2. The Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture has recently issued his final estimates of the *bhadoi* and winter rice crops, copies of which are appended to this letter. They disclose no cause for anxiety save in the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division (exclusive of Manbhum) and in Puri, and Angul. The winter rice crop has been, in Bengal, excellent, and in Bihar fair; and though the *bhadoi* (rains) crop was poor in the latter province, yet any apprehensions have been rendered groundless by the good prospects of the *rabi*.

3. The only portion of these provinces in which the spring crops are of vital importance is Bihar; and according to present reports there was abundant moisture at the time of sowing in October. Since then no rain has fallen; but though the effect of good rains within the first half of January would be very great, yet there is reason to believe that even if they fail the outturn will be almost normal. According to present reports the ordinary crops are doing well, and the poppy has germinated successfully.

4. The possible famine relief requirements are therefore confined to the districts already excluded from the preceding remarks. These may now be considered separately.

In Puri the Director of Land Records has estimated the outturn of winter rice in the Sadar and Khurda subdivisions at 56 and 75 per cent. respectively; and if such a crop had been reaped in every thana or village, there would be no cause for apprehension. In isolated tracts, however, the produce has been very poor, and these are being carefully watched. One small test work, near the Chilka lake, is now open, and relief within very narrow local limits may be needed, but the Commissioner considers that no assistance from provincial funds will be needed in the current year beyond that already provided in the budget.

The district of Angul has recently been visited by the Commissioner, who, after careful enquiries, has concluded that the winter rice crop in the Sadar subdivision will be 8 annas (or 50 per cent. in the new notation). He also expects that the *rabi* crops will probably be fair (12 annas). No famine relief will therefore be required this year, though some help in the shape of *takavi* loans may be needed. It cannot yet be said whether relief will be necessary after March, as much will depend on the *rabi* and the *mahua* crop. In the

Khondmals, which are attached administratively to Angul, though separated therefrom by the Native State of Bod, the Commissioner estimates 4 annas (or 25 per cent.) as the utmost extent of the outturn. He also expects that the *rabi* crops will fail. The population affected numbers, however, only 70,000; and even if relief measures become necessary, the probable expediture will be considerably under a lakh of rupees. But the question of relief will be very considerably affected by the outturn of the next *mahua* crop, since the people even of the better class regularly look to the jungles for three months' supply of food. Owing to the inaccessibility of the tract, and the absence of any large grain dealers, it may be necessary hereafter to grant loans for the importation of rice.

In Chota Nagpur there is ground for hoping that in case a good *mahua* crop is gathered, famine relief will not be necessary at all; and at any rate it will probably not be required until next year. Unfortunately the absence of winter rains has harmed the *rabi* crop, which, though insignificant in the other districts, is of considerable importance in the isolated district of Palamau.

5. It will be seen that all the affected tracts, with the exception of Puri, belong to the fringe of hilly country occupied by aboriginal or semi-aboriginal tribes, and affording supplies of jungle produce of considerable, though uncertain, value. The peculiarities of the inhabitants do not facilitate the application of rigid methods for testing the degree of scarcity, and necessitate very careful watching. The Lieutenant-Governor is, however, able to promise that if it should unfortunately be necessary to give famine relief, that necessity will first be demonstrated by the fullest admissible tests.

6. The expenditure already incurred has been confined to the cost of test works and a little relief to starving people in Puri. It has not been considerable, and has been met from local funds.

In addition, as already reported to you, a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been advanced from provincial funds to grain dealers in Palamau to enable them to import grain. The abundant winter harvest of Bengal has hitherto kept prices far below the range which obtained in the cold weather of 1896–97, and affords ground for hope that the resources of the local traders will not be now, as then, unduly strained.

No remissions of Government land revenue are contemplated, though postponement of kists may perhaps be rendered necessary in the extensive Government estates of Angul, Khurda (in Puri), Kolhan (in Singhbhum), and Palamau.

More than the usual liberality in the grant of loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act, both in the current and in the next year, will be exercised. The estimated expenditure in the seven affected districts during the current year is about a lakh of rupees, and in 1900–1901 it will amount to about two lakhs.

In addition, the customary expenditure from district funds and the improvement funds at the disposal of Government and Wards' estates will be undertaken.

7. So far as at present advised, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the above described measures will be adequate to meet all requirements. But he desires to take advantage of the dispensation suggested in paragraph 3 of the letter of the Government of India, because in each of the affected districts save Puri the value of the *mahua* crop and of jungle products, the prospects of which will be known in March, is very great, whilst in Puri heavy rains in October made it possible to sow large areas with *rabi* and catch crops, the approximate effect of which it will be possible to estimate two months hence. Accordingly, should any important modification of the situation arise before March, it will be reported at once to the Government of India, and a further general report will be submitted in that month.

No. 161.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 663T.-R., dated Darjeeling, the 31st May, 1900.

I am directed to submit, with reference to the Government of India's letter No. 1031F., dated the 21st May, 1900, the following report on the prospects of scarcity in this Province. In the last report, submitted in my letter No. 214, dated the 13th January, 1900, it was stated that the possibility of distress requiring relief measures was confined to the Chota Nagpur Division (exclusive of Manbhum) and the districts of Puri and Angul (including the Kandhmals in the Orissa Division. There has since been no change for the worse in other parts of the Province, though anxiety was felt for some time with regard to a portion of the Gobindpur sub-division of Manbhum, which was visited by famine in 1896–97. But the price of common rice at Gobindpur has been steady at 12 seers per rupee since the middle of January. The *mahua* has also been an average crop, and the mango about 85 per cent., and with seasonable showers of rain in almost every week since the latter end of April, all anxiety with regard to this tract has ceased. The following paragraphs deal with the districts mentioned in my letter of the 13th January.

2. *Puri.*—In the district of Puri scarcity was apprehended only in certain isolated tracts in the neighbourhood of the Chilka Lake, covering an area of 120·7 square miles, with a population of 36,578 persons. The number of test works opened rose to six in the first half of April, two of which were, however, soon closed, one for want of labourers, and the other because it was too close to another work; whilst the numbers on the other test works were never large. The Commissioner inspected the doubtful areas at the end of April, and reported that the condition of the people was good, and that there was no present apprehension of distress. There were also heavy showers of rain* on the 3rd and 4th May, and as the rainy season was very near, orders were issued on the 16th May to close all test works, and the distribution of the trifling gratuitous relief which was being given. A final report on the measures taken, with a statement of expenditure, has been called for. The average price of common rice in the interior of the district, according to a report of the Collector dated the 19th May, is 14 seers per rupee.

Date.	Inches.
*3rd May	2·15
4th „	·75

3. *Angul and the Kandhmals.*—According to the note of the Agricultural Department on the outturn of the *rabi* crops of 1899–1900, published in the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 11th April last, the yield of the *rabi* food crops in Angul and the Kandhmals taken together is 44 per cent., and of the *rabi* non-food crops 50 per cent. The outturn of *mahua* in Angul is estimated at about 36 per cent., and that of mango at about 42 per cent. Two test works were opened, but were not frequented. No deficiency of stocks has been reported, and the price of common rice in the interior is steady at 12 seers per rupee.

In the Kandhmals, as observed in this Government's letter of the 13th January referred to, much depended on the *mahua*, which has happily yielded a 70 per cent. crop. Another crop of great importance to the inhabitants is turmeric, the outturn of which is estimated at from 50 to 62·5 per cent., and it is reported that it has been sold for higher prices than in ordinary years. Although, therefore, the retail price of common rice is high, being 9 seers per rupee, the general conditions are good, and rice is being freely imported from Ganjam.

The Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, Orissa, visited Angul in the beginning of May, and reported favourably on the situation; there has also

been a succession of seasonable showers of rain ; accordingly orders were issued on the 22nd May discontinuing the submission of the half-monthly reports, and calling for a final report of the measures taken and the expenditure incurred. Relief in Angul and the Kandhmals will, in the ordinary course of events, now be confined to starving wanderers, of whom some may come from the Central Provinces.

4. *Singhbhum.*—Of the doubtful districts in the Chota Nagpur Division, the prospects of Singhbhum are so far good. The outturn of the *rabi* crops, although they are insignificant in this district, is not bad, being 65 per cent. in the case of food crops, and 60 per cent. in that of non-food crops ; while the outturn of *mahua* is said to be normal. It is also reported by the local officers that the fruit of the *sâl* tree, which is a wholesome and nourishing article of food, is procurable in large quantities. Prices are steady, common rice selling from 10 to 16½ seers per rupee ; and it is reported that there are large stocks of rice in the Dhalbhum pargana. Finally, there was general rain in both weeks of the first half of May, preceded by good showers in every week of April, and ploughing and sowing have commenced.

5. *Hazaribagh.*—The relative importance and the outturn of the principal crops and the prices of common rice in the district of Hazaribagh, as well as in Ranchi and Palamau, are shown in Statements I., II., and III. hereto appended. The condition of the district as a whole has remained satisfactory, and the average district price of common rice during the fortnight ending the 12th May was 11½ seers per rupee, as compared with 6 seers 14 chitaks at the same period of 1897. But some anxiety has been felt for thanas Simaria and Barkagon, where the outturn of the late winter rice crop was 50 and 25 per cent. respectively. The outturn of the *mahua* crop, which was damaged in this district as well as in Ranchi and Palamau by bad weather from January to March, is estimated for the whole district at from 8 to 10 annas (50 to 62·5 per cent.) ; but as regards the two thanas named above, which are thinly populated and possess many *mahua* trees, the local officers think that probably the people will have enough for their requirements. A test work was opened in the Barkagaon thana on the 2nd April, but no labourer attended. Two kitchens were started by the Deputy Commissioner, one in this thana and one in thana Simaria, for indigent residents, principally old women and children, who, in his opinion, were beginning to suffer from the scarcity. As the abortive test work showed that distress, if there was any, was not acute, the two kitchens have since been closed. Rain has fallen, and the latest weekly weather and crop telegram shows that fields are being ploughed for the early paddy crop in this district.

6. *Palamau.*—As already telegraphed to the Government of India, famine has been declared in Mahuadanr, the south-eastern thana of this district, adjoining the district of Ranchi. The tract is hilly, and covers an area of 502 square miles, with a population of 26,153, or 52 per square mile, the aboriginal element amounting to about half the total population. Trade in this tract is limited, and communications are far from being good. The late winter rice crop in the south of this thana was almost a complete failure, the Deputy Commissioner being doubtful whether it reached 10 per cent. ; and the outturn of *mahua* is reported to be 6 annas, or 37·5 per cent. The mango crop is, however, good. Very little *rabi* was sown, and the outturn has been bad.

In the first fortnight of December last common rice was, contrary to the usual custom, as dear, if not dearer, at Mahuadanr than elsewhere in the district, selling at 11 seers 4 chitaks a rupee. It fell considerably in the following fortnight, but again rose rapidly in the first half of January. In the second half of March, the price quoted for Mahuadanr was 10 seers 2 chitaks, as compared with 10 seers 11 chitaks in the previous fortnight. The price was stationary till the end of April, apparently on account of imports from the adjoining Tributary State of Jashpur ; when these stopped, the price rose to 6 seers 3 chitaks in the first half of May. Since the close of the fortnight it has fallen to 7 seers 14 chitaks. The price of *mahua* in this thana rose from 33¾ seers to 27 seers in

the first half of April, the latter being about four times as high as the usual price at that time in ordinary years. In the second half of April it rose further to 23 seers 10 chitaks. A test work was opened at Mahuadanr on the 27th of March, but was not at first well attended. The numbers appear to have begun to rise in the second half of April, and the table in the margin shows the numbers in each week up to the second week of May. The Commissioner, Mr. Forbes, who visited Mahuadanr on the 16th March formed the opinion that the stocks of grain were deficient, and considered the labourers on a work opened by the Roman Catholic Missionaries to be nearly all deteriorating from want of food. In accordance with the recommendation of the late Indian Famine Commission contained in paragraph 486 of their Report, a Deputy Collector was deputed in the second half of April to make local enquiries into the state of stocks and the condition of the people. He searched many houses, and found the stocks nearly exhausted, and the people living largely on jungle products. Moreover, the local missionaries unanimously considered that famine was at hand. In view of the positive evidence of the acuteness of the distress, the aboriginal descent of a large portion of the inhabitants, and the difficulties of communication, the Lieutenant-Governor came to the conclusion that further delay in declaring famine would be unjustifiably rash. Accordingly that step has been taken, and the Commissioner has been authorised to organise the distribution of gratuitous relief, and to open relief works at such rates for piece work as he may think fit, up to the maximum permitted by the Bengal Famine Code of 1897. A copy of the instructions for calculating piece-work rates is submitted for the information of Government. In addition, the sanction of the Government of India has been obtained to the grant of loans to the local dealers to import rice into the thana. It will be remembered that a loan of Rs. 50,000 was advanced some months ago to the dealers at the district headquarters to import grain into the district, and there is good reason for believing that a large stock has been accumulated since then, which should be available now for import into Mahuadanr.

Week ending—	Aggregate number of male units.
7th April	43
14th „	119
21st „	472*
28th „	1,219*
5th May	981
12th „	1,091

* These include numbers on test works in thana Balumath. The local officers have not given separate figures for these two weeks.

With regard to two other thanas in this district, viz., Balumath and Latihar, adjoining thana Mahuadanr, and to a certain extent similarly circumstanced, anxiety is being felt at present, but before arriving at any definite conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor is awaiting a further report from the local officers.

The closing of work on the Barun-Daltonganj Railway at such a time is unfortunate. It is understood that the East Indian Railway Company are about to take this step under instructions from the Government of India, because all the resources of that Government are required for the relief of famine. Though the line does not pass through the affected thanas, the steady employment offered to labourers on it would sensibly relieve the pressure throughout the district.

7. *Ranchi.*—The following table shows the thanas which have given cause for anxiety in the district of Ranchi, with the outturn of winter rice in each :—

Name of Thana.	Area Square Miles.	Population.	Outturn of Winter Rice.
			Per Cent.
Mandar	372	73,759	43·7
Khunti	559	96,508	43·7
Karra	481	96,671	37·5
Bassia	282	47,470	50
Lohardaga	510	107,756	25
Sisai	317	57,200	25

Name of Thana.	Area. Square Miles.	Population.	Outturn of Winter Rice.
			Per cent.
Toto	256	47,648	18·7
Bishunpur	285	19,365	18·7
Chainpur	436	38,176	25
Palkote	574	67,177	43·7
Ranchi	672	177,604	37·5
Total	4.744	829,334	—

Winter rice being by far the most important crop in this district, the failure of that crop early attracted attention to the affected thanas. But the harvests in the two previous years having been good, prices, though high, were not such as to excite apprehension until the latter half of January. In a letter No. 546, dated the 28th January, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, instructions were issued by this Government, drawing attention to the orders of the Government of India about the necessity of enforcing a rigid test as far as possible, and prescribing a table of rates for piece-work based, as regards the task to be done in order to earn a full day's wage, upon the tables of tasks prepared by Mr. Glass during the late famine ; and as regards the amount of wage, on the cost of the maximum amount of food required by a "B" class worker under the Bengal Famine Code of 1897. The remuneration on test works was based on the performance of a full (normal) task, which is (according to Mr. Glass's tables) $\frac{5}{3}$rds of a famine task. The attendance for some time was not such as to point to the existence of any acute distress. The local officers urged that this was due to the disinclination of aborigines to labour at other than customary wages, and their preference to subsist on lazily obtained, though inadequate, jungle products, rather than proper food earned at the cost of steady work. Towards the end of March, the Commissioner, after visiting certain thanas, reported that the supply of food-grains for sale in the bazaars was deficient, and that people had actually begun to subsist entirely on jungle products. In the succeeding month the numbers on the test works gradually increased ; and as the reports of the local officers became more and more unsatisfactory, the Lieutenant-Governor directed in April that special local enquiries should be made by gazetted officers into the physical condition of the people, the existing stocks of food, and the extent to which jungle products were being used without a proper admixture of cereals. The results of these enquiries are shown in the table below :—

Thana.	Stocks.	Outturn of Mahua and Mango.	Condition of the People.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
Mandar	Exhausted; not enough for seed.	Mahua 8 annas. Mango almost total failure	Good	The entries in columns 2, 3 and 4 for Mandar thana refer specially to the Burmu outpost. In the other parts of this thana the general conditions are better and there is no need for apprehension at present.
Lohardaga ..	Sufficient, except in individual villages, and except in the south.	Mahua 4 to 10 annas. Mango as in Mandar.	Do.	
Sisai..	Almost entirely exhausted, and people living on jungle products.	Mahua 8 annas. Mango complete failure.	Reduced.	
Toto	Ditto ditto ..	Ditto ditto ..	Do.	
Bishunpur ..	Serious deficiency ..	Mahua*, people estimate at 4 annas.	No emaciation noticed.	
Chainpur	Run out	Mahua fair, but the Police estimate 6 annas. Mango promises fair.	Healthy and in good condition, according to Deputy Collector Babu S. C. Sen, but according to Mr. Corbett, Assistant District Superintendent of Police, poor.	
Khunti	Exhausted	Mahua 6 to 8 annas. Mango almost a complete failure.	Showing signs of want of food.	
Karra				
Bassia				
Ranchi	No distress reported.			

* Deputy Collector Babu Krishna Kali Mukharji thinks it may be 8 annas. He noticed a few mangoes on the trees.

From further information furnished in the Commissioner's report for the first half of May, it appeared that the famine must now be declared in thanas Sisai, Chainpur and Khunti ; and orders have been issued accordingly. This fact has already been telegraphed to the Government of India, and the information required under section 29 (8) of the Bengal Famine Code will be furnished in a subsequent report. With regard to the other thanas, the Commissioner has been directed to open additional test works, and the results of this proceeding are being awaited. In the meantime arrangements are being completed to ensure the opening of relief works on a sufficient scale, and the organization of an adequate system of gratuitous relief. Taccavi loans are being liberally granted by touring gazetted officers to enable the rice fields to be sown, and arrangements for the supply of rice are being made by the advance of loans to local grain dealers to enable them to import from the stations on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

There has been a succession of seasonable showers, and cultivation is now going on, but owing to the very large emigration that took place last cold weather, it is said that the men left in the district are scarcely more than enough to carry on the requisite field work. If the rains are favourable, the next crop will be reaped about the middle of August.

No. 162.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 943--T. R., dated Darjeeling, the 18th June, 1900.

With reference to my telegram No. 647 T.—R., of 30th May, and No. 810T.—R. of 8th June, 1900, I am directed to submit the following general report prescribed by section 29 (8) of the Bengal Famine Code. Famine has been declared by this Government to exist in portions of the two districts of Ranchi and Palamau in the Chota Nagpur Division. These districts are coterminous and the affected tracts adjoin. The physical features are the same in each. The country is rugged, hilly, sparsely populated, and ill-supplied with communications. The inhabitants include a very large proportion of aboriginal or semi-hinduized castes, accustomed to obtain some portion of their food from the jungles, which are found in almost all the tracts now affected. In Ranchi the prosperity of the cultivators depends almost entirely on the outturn of the winter rice crop ; but in the portions of Palamau now affected, the autumn crops are the most important in the year. Mahua trees are very abundant and ordinarily furnish a supply of food estimated to suffice for two months. The outturn of the various crops in the years 1899 and 1900 for each of the affected thanas has been given in a table appended.

The existing distress will, in the event of a normal monsoon, probably continue till the middle of September, when the autumn crops will be reaped. Of these, an unusual quantity is said to have been sown this year in Ranchi, and so far the prospects of a good outturn are satisfactory.

The districts are, as regards external communications, the most isolated in Bengal, the nearest railway being the Bengal-Nagpur line. The ordinary outlet of the Ranchi trade is Purulia, a station on that line 75 miles from Ranchi. Such trade as there is in the affected areas of Palamau is mainly with the Tributary States, which lie between Palamau and Bilaspur in the Central Provinces. The organization of the local grain trade is very imperfect ; and it has already been found necessary to supplement local resources in Palamau by sanctioning the advance of Rs. 50,000 in loans to the dealers of Daltonganj to encourage imports from outside the district, and Rs. 15,000 to the petty dealers in the affected tracts to enable them to bring grain into the local bazaars. In Ranchi also the imperfections of communication cause great variations in the

price of rice, and though the dealers at the headquarters stations are men of substance, yet they have shown little enterprise in meeting the *mufassal* demands, and consequently a similar loan of Rs. 15,000 has been sanctioned for the small local traders in the famine area. It is hoped that these loans will not only provide a supply of food for the general population, but will also furnish a stock of seed-grain, to purchase which liberal *takavi* advances are being distributed.

The first monthly report, required by section 29 (4) of the Bengal Famine Code, is being independently submitted.

No. 163.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 944 T.—R., dated Darjeeling, the 18th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 663T.—R., dated the 31st May, 1900, relating to the prospects of scarcity in this Province, and in consequence of the declaration of the existence of famine by this Government, I am directed to submit the following first monthly report required under section 29 (4) of the Bengal Famine Code. This report contains famine statements A and B for the period (subsequent to the declaration of famine) ending the 26th May, together with maps of the districts of Ranchi and Palamau showing the tracts in which famine has been declared or is apprehended.

2. *Ranchi.*—During the two weeks ending the 26th May good rain fell in the district of Ranchi, the district average being 1·24 inches. The sowing of high lands was in progress, giving hopes of an early autumn harvest, and the average district price of common rice fell from 9 seers 1 chitak in the previous fortnight to 9 seers 5 chitaks per rupee. The aggregate number of male units at piece-work rates on the test works also fell from 12,103 in the week ending 12th May to 11,642 in the week ending the 26th May. This improvement is, however, considered to be merely temporary and due solely to the rain, which induced several large holders of grain to open their granaries and drew the people away from the works to their cultivation. A quick rise in prices is apprehended, partly owing to the demand for seed-grain.

As already telegraphed to you, the Lieutenant-Governor has found it necessary to declare famine in three more thanas in this district, viz., Karra, Toto, and Bishunpur, with an aggregate area of 1,022 square miles and a population of 163,684 persons. The reports of the local officers for the second half of May showed that there was sharp distress, and that the people were living too exclusively on *sag* and jungle products.

3. *Palamau.*—The famine area in this district is still confined to thana Mahuadanr. In thanas Balumath and Latihar the prices* of food-grains have not risen so high as in Mahuadanr, and no signs of emaciation have yet been observed by the local officers. The fall in the price of common rice in Mahuadanr from 7 seers 14 chitaks, as previously reported, to 8 seers 7 chitaks is due apparently to the recommencement of exports from the Tributary States of Sirguja and Jashpur. Although orders declaring famine in thana Mahuadanr were issued on the 19th May, the local officers were not able to bring

	Price of Common Rice in Week Ending 26th May.
	S. Ch.
*Mahuadanr ...	8 7
Balumath	10 11
Latihar	9 0

the provisions of the Code into operation during the period under report, and the three works previously opened were continued as test works. The aggregate numbers of male units employed in the second half of May are noted in the margin. Four test works were in progress in thana Balumath which gave employment to an aggregate number of 1,911 male units, during the week ending the 26th May. In thana Latihar there were no regular test works, but 27 works, carried on from the Government Estate progress, and 25* of them employed an aggregate number of 3,719 male units during the same week. These works were paid for at test rates, but in order to complete them before the rains a minimum rate of Re. 1-4-0 per 1,000 cubic feet was paid in those cases in which the rates according to the table were less than that sum.

Week Ending.	Piece Work.	Daily Wages.	Total.
1	2	3	4
19th May ...	458	159	617
26th „ ...	705	192	897

Improvement Fund, were in

* Figures for two works have not been received.

The Barun-Daltonganj Railway employed an average daily number of 4,973 persons during the week ending the 26th May, 1900. As stated in my telegram No. 825T.—R., dated the 9th instant, 85 per cent. of these are local labourers. The closing of this work at such a time would therefore be unfortunate.

4. There has been no further development in the situation in the remaining districts of the Province which at one time caused some anxiety.

No. 164.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department. No. 2468, dated the 18th July, 1900.

In continuation of this Government's letter No. 944-T. R., dated the 18th June, 1900, I am directed to submit the following famine report for the five weeks ending the 30th June, with Statements A and B.

The maps submitted with the last report need alteration in no respect.

2. *Ranchi.*—There was a cyclonic storm with good rain in this district in the week ending the 16th June. This was of great benefit to the *bhadoi* or autumn crops, and steadied prices so that the average district price of common rice, which was 9 seers 5 chattaks per rupee in the second-half of June, has risen only to 9 seers 3 chattaks. The numbers employed on test and relief work have, however, continued to increase, the aggregate numbers of male units on piece work in the five weeks being as noted in the margin. As reported in my letter No. 1140-T. R., dated the 29th June, 1900, the Lieutenant-Governor has found it necessary to declare famine in three more thanas of this district, viz., Lohardaga, Bassia and Palkote. The affected thanas are now nine in number, with an aggregate area of 3,700 square miles and a population of 577,971 persons, though the area in which relief is needed does not in every case extend to the whole of the thana, and the operations are in reality confined to an area of about 2,300 square miles.

Week Ending.	No.
2nd June	19,916
9th „	27,259
16th „	23,031
23rd „	33,954
30th „	43,611

3. *Palamau.*—The prospects in this district are similar to those of Ranchi. The *bhadoi* crops are fairly good, but more rain was wanted for them as well as for the winter rice crop at the end of the period covered by the last

local report. Good rain has, however, fallen since then. Mahuadanr still continues to be the only thana in which famine has been declared; but the condition of thanas Latihar and Balumath is reported by the local officers to be bad, and it may perhaps be found necessary to introduce regular relief operations in them. The district average price of common rice has risen from 10 seers 1½ chattaks in the second-half of May to 9 seers 1 chattak in the second-half of June. In thana Mahuadanr the price of common rice has again risen to 7 seers 14 chattaks per rupee; but the attendance on the relief works has not increased correspondingly. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece work in the five weeks under report are noted in the margin. Test works are in progress in thanas Balumath and Latihar, and in other thanas there are several works now being carried on from the Government Estates Improvement Fund.

Week Ending.	No.
2nd June	1,357
9th „	1,677
16th „	1,109
23rd „	1,374
30th „	1,186

4. There has been no change for the worse in other districts. In Hazaribagh prices continue to harden slowly, and some beggars and children are being relieved at kitchens maintained from the local subscriptions to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Speaking generally, the relief at present required is being afforded adequately, and the prospects for the future have been brightened by the favourable nature of the monsoon.

No. 165.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 3,100 *dated Calcutta, the* 20*th August*, 1900.

In continuation of this Government's letter No. 2468-Agri., dated the 18th July, 1900, I am directed to submit the following famine report for the four weeks ending the 28th July, 1900, together with Famine Statements A and B, and maps of the districts of Ranchi and Palamau showing the affected areas.

2. *Ranchi.*—Although the prospects of the crops were satisfactory, prices continued to rise, the average district price of common rice at the end of the period under report being 8 seers 14 chattaks as against 9 seers 3 chattaks at the end of June. The attendance on test and relief works also continued to rise up to the end of the first week of July. In the two following weeks there was some falling off, for the people had to cultivate their fields; as this work is for the time being finished they are coming back, and the attendance has again risen since the last week of July. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece-work in the four weeks under report are noted in the margin. The Lieutenant-Governor has since the close of the month paid a visit to this district, reaching Ranchi on the evening of the 5th August and stopping there till the morning of the 9th instant. He spent two days inspecting kitchens and relief works in the interior, and held a conference at the head-quarters town on the 8th, at which various matters relating to the famine were discussed with the officers named in the margin. Having regard to the facts that the *Gondli* crop, the only *bhadoi* (autumn) crop now being harvested, is not of much importance, and that an unusually large number of able-bodied men have this year temporarily emigrated in search of employment leaving their families behind, the Lieutenant-Governor decided that the works and

Week ending	No.
7th July	49,112
14th „	48,576
21st „	39,447
28th „	43,122

Mr. Forbes, C.S.I., Commissioner.
„ Bourdillon, C.S.I., Chief Secretary.
„ Slacke, Revenue Secretary.
„ Streatfield, Deputy Commissioner.

kitchens should be kept open for the present until the main *bhadoi* harvest is reaped or about the middle of September. The condition of the crops in the ground is excellent.

3. *Palamau.*—In this district the autumn crops are more important than in Ranchi, and their prospects are good. No new area has been declared famine-stricken, but during a recent tour in this district the Commissioner came across many old men, women and children outside the famine area (thana Mahuadanr) whom he judged to be in need of relief. He, therefore, directed kitchens to be opened for the relief of such persons in thanas Balumath, Latihar, Patan, Garhwa, Daltonganj and Ranka, although looking to the promising *bhadoi* crops, and the field labour afforded by the transplantation of lowland paddy now in progress, he did not consider it necessary to raise the rates on the test-works in progress in these thanas to those sanctioned for famine relief-works. The action of the Commissioner has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor. The district average price of common rice fell from 9 seers, 1 chattak in the second-half of June to 9 seers, 6½ chattaks in the second-half of July. In thana Mahuadanr the price was stationary at 7 seers, 14 chattaks. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece-work in thana Mahuadanr were as noted in the margin, the corresponding numbers on the test-works in the other thanas being as follows :—

Week ending	No.
7th July	1,863
14th „	1,465
21st „	995
28th „	1,184

Week ending	No.
7th July	8,906
14th „	4,960
21st „	3,724
28th „	5,373

4. As regards the rest of the Province, there is some distress in the district of Angul, especially in the wilder parts of the Kandhmals subdivision, and gratuitous relief is being given to a few people unfit for work, labour being provided for others on ordinary works. Abundant rains have, however, now improved prospects. For the Province as a whole the rains have so far been eminently suited to the autumn crops ; but from many districts complaints are received that they have proved somewhat inadequate for the cultivation of the winter rice crop. So far, however, no actual cause for anxiety has arisen.

No. 166.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 1677-*T. R., dated Darjeeling, the* 13*th September*, 1900.

In continuation of this Government's letter No. 3100-Agri., dated the 20th August, 1900, I am directed to submit the following famine report for the four weeks ending the 25th August, 1900, together with famine statements A and B, and maps of the districts of Ranchi and Palamau showing the affected areas.

2. *Ranchi.*—Prices began to fall from the first half of the period under report. At the end of that period the district average price of common rice

was 9 seers 6 chattaks per rupee, as compared with 8 seers 14 chattaks at the end of July. An excellent crop of *gondli*, an inferior kind of grain, has been reaped, and is selling at from 16 to 25 seers per rupee. The numbers on the relief and test works, however, continued to rise, with the exception of a temporary fall in the week ending 11th August. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece work during the four weeks were as noted in the margin. A rise in the latter half of the month was expected with a falling off in the demand for field labour; and the Deputy Commissioner thinks that the numbers were swollen by labourers returning to their homes from work in Eastern Bengal. Having regard to the good rainfall, the consequent excellent prospects of the crops, and the considerable difference in prices amounting to nearly 3 seers, between the present year and 1897, the Lieutenant-Governor passed orders, before the end of August, that all test works in the less affected thanas of Ranchi, Mandar and Kochdega, and those relief works in other thanas on which the average daily attendance did not exceed 50, should be closed on the 31st of the month, and that the remaining relief works, together with all Government gratuitous relief, should be stopped by the 15th September, when the autumn harvest would afford an ample supply of food for present needs. In order to check any tendency amongst the people to resort to the Government works unnecessarily, the rates for piece work on the relief works kept open after the 31st August have been reduced to test rates from the 1st September. To meet exceptional cases, the Commissioner has been authorised to continue gratuitous relief from the Charitable Relief Fund, beyond the 15th September, at such places and in such forms as he may think necessary.

Week ending	No.
4th August ...	50,835
11th „ ...	45,187
18th „ ...	53,216
25th „ ...	70,756

Palamau.—As in Ranchi, the prospects of the crops are excellent, the *bhadoi* turning out a bumper crop, but the average district prices showed a slight tendency to rise in the second half of the month. The average price of common rice at the end of the period was 9 seers 5 chattaks, as compared with 9 seers 6½ chattaks in the second half of July. This is attributed by the local officers to the general depletion of stocks and the great difficulties in the way of transport during the rains, in the interior of the district. In thana Mahuadanr where famine was declared, the price of common rice, which was 7 seers 14 chattaks at the end of July, fell to 10 seers 2 chattaks in the first half, and again to 11 seers 13 chattaks in the second half of the period under report. The numbers on relief works in the thana rose slightly in the week ending the 4th August, but have since fallen rapidly, the aggregate numbers of male units on piece work during the four weeks being as noted in the margin. The corresponding numbers on the test works in other thanas were as follows :—

Week ending	No.
4th August ...	1,352
11th „ ...	538
18th „ ...	380.
25th „ ...	60

Week ending	No.
4th August	4,903
11th „	3,618
18th „	4,024
25th „	2,507

All relief and test works in this district were closed on the 31st August. Persons who still need employment will find it on certain works which are being continued as ordinary works at the expense of the District Board or from

the Government Estates Improvement Fund. Orders were issued at the end of August to close all gratuitous relief from the Government famine allotment not later than the 8th September, it being left open to the local officers to continue relief in kitchens or otherwise from the Charitable Funds beyond that date.

4. As regards the remainder of the Province, there has been general and copious rain in Angul and the Khondmals, and the prospects of the crops are goods ; but a little gratuitous relief is still being given. The rainfall in some other portions of the Province has been unfavourable in amount or distribution to the winter crop, but there is yet no reason to expect distress.

No. 167.

Letter from F. A. Slack, Esq. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 2183 T.—R., dated Darjeeling, the 23rd October, 1900.

WITH reference to the Government of India's letter, No. 1969 F.,* dated the 2nd October, 1900, I am directed to submit the following famine report for the month of September, 1900, together with famine statements A and B for the district of Ranchi. No such statements have been furnished for the district of Palamau, where relief and test works were closed on the 31st of August last.

2. *Ranchi.*—The rainfall during the three weeks ending the 15th September left a slight deficiency as compared with the average, but it was more than made up by constant rain from the 16th to the 24th idem, in which period over 10 inches fell throughout the district. It is reported that, with the exception of some slight damage to the *urid* crop, which is not of much importance, and to the ripening upland rice, the autumn crops have been full average ones, and that the recent rain has likewise ensured a full average outturn of the lowland rice. Prices have in consequence fallen considerably, the district average price of common rice being 11 seers 4½ Chitaks as compared with 9 seers 6 Chitaks per rupee at the end of August. The aggregate numbers of male units on piece-work during the three weeks were as noted in the margin. As stated in paragraph 2 of my letter No. 1677 T.—R., dated the 13th September, 1900, the piece-work rates were reduced to test rates from the 1st September. The Deputy Commissioner thinks that the reason why the numbers still kept up is that the people having become accustomed to the reduced rates were doubtless glad to earn a fair money wage in the time which they could spare from their fields. All works were stopped from the 15th September. From the same date all gratuitous relief at Government expense also ceased. A sum of Rs. 1,500 out of the allotment made from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was placed in the hands of the District Charitable Relief Committee for distribution to the most indigent amongst the recipients then remaining on the lists.

Week ending	No.
1st September ...	62,754
8th „ ...	38,265
15th „ ...	51,262

3. *Palamau.*—This district too has had good rain during the period under report, and also subsequently, and a good winter rice crop is practically ensured, while the autumn crops are giving a full or nearly a full normal outturn. Prices everywhere have improved considerably, the district average price of common rice being 10 seers 6½ chitaks as against 9 seers 5 chitaks per rupee in the second half of August. That of Indian corn has fallen from

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* Stating that monthly famine reports may be discontinued after that for September.

10 seers 15½ chitaks to 26 seers 3 chitaks, and of marua (*eleusine coracana*) from 11 seers 15¼ chitaks to 19 seers 3¾ chitaks per rupee. All relief and test works at Government expense were closed on the 31st August. Some of the former were continued by the District Board up to the 11th September, when all of them were closed owing to the non-attendance of labourers. Of the test works, those in thana Latehar are being maintained from the Government Estate Improvement Fund, and those at Garhwa, Patan and Chandwa by the District Board. Government gratuitous relief, which was confined to kitchens in this district, ceased after the 7th September. Some of the kitchens were maintained by the Charitable Relief Fund Committee up to the 15th September.

4. There has been general and copious rain in Angul and the Khondmals, and prospects have improved. The tenants took advantage of the rains, and pushed on their agricultural operations vigorously. All gratuitous relief has been stopped in Angul, but as famine conditions have not yet disappeared from the Khondmals, and as it is apprehended that they may continue till the coming rice harvest, which will be reaped in December next, it is proposed to keep open some relief works and to grant gratuitous relief till then. These proposals are now under the consideration of Government. Apart from loans and local funds, it is not expected that the total expenditure in the Khondmals from Provincial revenues will exceed Rs. 10,000.

5. As regards the rest of the Province, the rainfall has been general, and the prospects of the winter rice are good, except in the flooded tracts of the Burdwan, Orissa, and Presidency Divisions, where loans will be required, for which an application to the Government of India will shortly be made. Special reports concerning the floods in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions have already been separately submitted to the Government of India, and the Lieutenant-Governor has been assured that, so far, there is no cause of any serious apprehension for scarcity in those divisions.

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING SCARCITY IN PARTS OF ASSAM.

No. 168.

Letter from F. J. Monahan, Esq., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture. No. 1217 *Misc.*—5705 *G., dated Shillong, the* 24*th July*, 1901.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the papers noted in the annexed list, regarding the scarcity of food-grains now prevailing in parts of the Kamrup District, which is the result of a bad crop of *sali* (late transplanted rice) in the past year, followed by a partial failure of the *ahu* (early rice) crop this year, owing to unfavourable distribution of rainfall.

2. The tracts affected comprise the Nalbari and Rangia tahsils, and parts of the Hajo, Patidarrang, Chaygaon, and Palasbari tahsils in the sadr sub-division of the district. In the south-western portion of the Nalbari tahsil, the scarcity has been somewhat acutely felt, being aggravated by defective communications, an old water-channel having been silted up by the earthquake of 1897. As usual, there is a tendency in some quarters to exaggerate the distress, and it is clear from the Deputy Commissioner's reports that there is no ground for any apprehension of famine. Owing to the failure of crops, a considerable number of the raiyats, who usually consume the rice which they grow themselves, are reduced to the necessity of buying rice at a high price, and the poorest class of people, especially those who have no land, and are unable to work, or have hitherto been dependent on the charity of neighbours or relatives, have fallen into a state of destitution and require relief. The number of these is, however, small. The people, as a whole, are well off, and there is no real distress among them. For the able-bodied there is no lack of employment, and some have already obtained work in larger numbers than usual on tea gardens in Upper Assam. Those who remain in the villages are generally unwilling to do any work, except in the immediate vicinity of their homes, and they are required to look after the cultivation of their own fields.

3. In the circumstances, the Chief Commissioner considers that it would be useless to open relief works. He has sanctioned for the present the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 500 in gratuitous relief, and the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts is starting a public charitable subscription at Gauhati for the relief of cases of distress. A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been placed at the Commissioner's disposal for loans to Government tenants under the Agriculturalists' Loans Act. Steps have been taken to improve communications and to encourage the importation of rice to places where scarcity prevails. The crop of *ahu* in the neighbouring sub-division of Barpeta has been a good one, and though the rainfall in the sadr sub-division was somewhat deficient early in the season, ample rain has fallen within the last fortnight, and there is no reason at present for apprehending a failure of this year's *sali* crop. The Chief Commissioner has no doubt that by the cold weather the present scarcity will have passed away.

4. In the Nalbari tahsil, a considerable area of settled land has deteriorated owing to deposits of sand caused by the earthquake of 1897 and subsequent floods. The Chief Commissioner, in his Resolution No. 2869 R., dated the 3rd June, 1898, directed a reduction of the assessment of such lands held on

periodic lease which had not been relinquished, but it appears that effect was not given to these orders. The Chief Commissioner has now called for an explanation of this neglect, and has instructed the Commissioner to see that they are carried out at once, in a liberal spirit, and with retrospective effect.

Enclosure 1 in No. 168.

Memorandum by the Officiating Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, No. 1565L.R., dated Gauhati, the 26th June, 1901.

Copy of letter No. 1061, dated the 18th June, 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, with copy of the enclosures, forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, for information. The Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup has been ordered to visit Nalbari at once and report.

Letter from H. C. Barnes, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, to the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, No. 1061, dated Gauhati, the 18th June, 1901.

I enclose a vernacular report* received from the police and a report of the tahsildar of Nalbari regarding the scarcity in that part of the district, with the request that it may be forwarded to the Director, Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, who has been making enquiries on the subject.

* Translated into English.

The report shows that very few people will turn out to work, if work is offered them, especially women. I propose to visit Nalbari and see whether this report is or is not exaggerated. I am inclined to think that, if the people will not work, they cannot expect gratuitous relief.

Annexure I.

Translation of a Report, dated the 6th June, 1901, by Digambar Chandra Laskar, Head Constable, in charge of the Nalbari Police Station in Kamrup.

Owing to the failure of the *sali* and the *aus* crops last year within the jurisdiction of this station, there has been great scarcity in almost every place here. Many people of this locality have gone a distance of 15 to 20 miles in order to purchase paddy or rice, but have had to return disappointed. Even those who have paddy and rice have stopped selling them, apprehending a failure of crop in future.

Being unable to purchase paddy or rice, some people are living on boiled *khesari dal*, pumpkins, &c., while others have a meal but once in one or two days, and thus life almost on the verge of death, it is with great difficulty that they are keeping themselves alive.

It has been found by enquiry that a Muhammadan, Bihu Shekh, of village Bongaon, in mauza Pakoa, within the jurisdiction of this station, quarrelled with his wife, Kone, and refused to maintain her. Kone failing to procure paddy or rice either by begging or for money in the neighbouring villages, and with her young daughter being unable to endure the pangs of hunger, committed suicide on the night of the 25th May by hanging. A beggar, named *Kuhi Pot*, of village Dehar Kalakuchi in Bansjani mauza, having fallen ill, was unable to go out a-begging. His wife also failed to get anything by begging in the neighbouring villages. Kuhi Pot, being unable to endure the sight of his starving family, as well as the cravings of his own hunger, committed suicide yesterday morning by hanging.

The rice-sellers of this locality, both natives and Marwaris, have formed a clique, and are now selling at Rs. 4-8, Rs. 4-12, and Rs. 5 a maund, the very rice which they purchased at Rs. 2-4, Rs. 2-8, and Rs. 2-10, respectively. Even these rates they enhance on many occasions, saying that there is no rice. The poor people being unable to purchase sufficient rice at a high price, are living with great difficulty on gourds, pumpkins, *khesari dal*, &c., mixed and boiled with a small quantity of rice. Some people are compelled to be satisfied with one meal every two or three days. I submit this report for information.

Annexure II.

Report, dated the 15th June, 1901, *by Babu Banya Chandra Chaudhuri, Tahsildar of Nalbari.*

Reports about scarcity of rice have already been made by me. On receipt of this order, I have been again to mauzas Pakoa and Dharmapur, and have found that the scarcity is being felt more and more day by day. It is worse than what I saw last time, about 2½ months ago. Very few people have paddy in stock, but none to large extent. Those who have some have reserved the same for their own consumption. Owing to want of rain, the *ahu* crop has proved almost a failure, and the people have, therefore, been overtaken by a panic of famine. In fact, it seems to me that hard days are coming. At present no paddy can be had for purchase within the jurisdiction of this tahsil, not even within a short distance in the neighbouring tahsils. People are sometimes seen to get paddy from a distance of 15 to 20 miles, after a journey of 2 or 3 days in different villages of Boroma and Tambulpore tahsils, and that even at 6 or 7 *dons* a rupee. Sometimes people are seen to come back disappointed. At Nalbari and Morowa *hâts* coarse rice is being sold at Rs. 4-8 to Rs. 5 a maund.

People in the interior are really in distress. Many are living on half meal and many on one meal after a day or two, and many on boiled pumpkin, plantain, and vegetables, &c., the consequence being that many are seen to have been reduced to skeleton. I visited about ten villages, and found about 100 people (including women and children) reduced to skeleton owing to starvation, and many of them shed tears at my appearance, as if I had been there for their relief, but in vain. The next day about 2,000 people gathered in my camp, asking for help, and amongst them about 50 were seen to have been reduced to skeleton owing to starvation, and on enquiry, found them to be in utterly helpless condition, having no means to secure rice in any way. Some of them, the women, shed tears when called on before me. In the evening, when all dispersed, about 20 women and children did not go until some rice was distributed to them at about 8 o'clock in the night.

The number of people who are really poverty-stricken and are in need of help would be, I think, about 25,000, and the rest are still in a position to tide over the difficulty some way or other. But the prospect of *ahu* crop being worse, I am afraid the number of the former would day by day increase. Though the condition of the people is such, still, I think, very few would come to relief work to a distant place, leaving their wives and children behind, but if any work is started in the locality, about 500 might come. The women won't come at all, even if they die of starvation. The number who are in great need of help now, consisting mostly of women and children, will be about 400 (I mean those who have been reduced to skeleton), and gratuitous relief is needed for them.

The cases of suicide under report were, however, *not* owing to starvation as reported by the police, but owing to other reasons, which will be reported on separately, if necessary. The police has been mistaken and misled by the people on this point. The scarcity has become so impressive in the minds of the people that any kind of death now-a-days is attributed by them to starvation. While enquiring into these cases, rumour came that another case of suicide has occurred at Belsor in mauza Dharmapur owing to

starvation. I hurried on to the place, and on enquiry, found that the deceased was a woman of about 20 years of age, was of healthy constitution—husband gone to Upper Assam to serve since two years past, but used to send money for her expenses—had nobody else in the house to look at her movements, used to go wherever she liked freely, had gold ear-rings, and other few ornaments, had been, on the day of committing suicide to her maternal uncle's house, where she took her food and was seen delightful, also brought some rice to her home. Entering into her house, found that her bed consisted of a planked bed-stead, a clean bed-sheet with some cloths under, two new pillows and a curtain, also a *batta* for betel-nut close by. In short, no sign of poverty was found in the house. It also appeared that she cooked in the house in the night. The ornaments are, however, missing. Under the circumstances there is no doubt that she committed suicide owing to other reasons not revealed yet, but surely not for starvation, but still the people would say when asked, that she died of starvation.

Enclosure 2 in No. 168.

Telegram from the Secretary to Chief Commissioner of Assam, to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, No. 4767G., dated Shillong, the 27th June, 1901.

Chief Commissioner desires to learn as soon as possible result of your enquiry into alleged distress in Nalbari tahsil. Please submit report direct to this office, sending copy to Commissioner.

Enclosure 3 in No. 168.

Letter from H. C. Barnes, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, dated Camp Nalbari, the 28th June, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt to-day of your telegram No. 4767G., dated the 27th June. I am not in a position as yet to submit a complete report on the scarcity in Nalbari. I have submitted my diary at short intervals to the Commissioner, but the difficulty of getting about is a bar to minute investigations.

2. I have travelled from Nalbari 8 miles down the Hajo road to Madhupur, marked Manipur on the 1-inch revenue map. I have also been to Bongaon, 4 miles, on the abandoned road to Barpeta *viâ* Amoni. I propose to visit Amoni and Jagia. I have visited Pakoa, a collection of hamlets, Barnadi and Bhandali villages. The area affected by acute scarcity of rice includes Madhupur, half of Pakoa village, Barnadi, and, as I am told by the tahsildar, that portion of these mauzas to the south-west of a line drawn through Madhupur, Pakoa, and Barnadi and continued in a curve in a north-westerly direction, *i.e.*, most of Pakoa and Dharmapur and Bahjani mauzas. This is the area where there is acute distress. I may as well define at once what I mean: those who can purchase rice have never been obliged to do so before: those who have nothing and used to exist on the charity of neighbours now find that they can get nothing by begging, and are consequently very hard up: the condition of the ordinary raiyat shows that they are underfed and are passing through a time of short rations. The general appearance of the people should strike any one who has seen much of the Assamese raiyat. Consequently, there are cases where one finds families (I am glad to say I have not found many, but I have found several) where women and children are distinctly famished. It is said that as one gets further away from Nalbari, things are worse: I shall verify this, if possible.

3. Excluding this tract, where scarcity is badly felt, the rest of Nalbari (*i.e.*, Khata and part of Batasgila mauzas) and Rangia and parts of Patidarrang, as well as parts of Palasbari and Chaygaon, are suffering from failure of crops. Reports from the south bank have not reached me, but on the north bank in these parts, a bad *sali* crop has been followed by an almost total failure of the *ahu* crop, the result being that scarcity is prevalent, but on a very different form to that seen in Pakoa and Dharmapur. In these places, the raiyats are fairly well off and will be able to meet the unfavourable season very well, unless the *sali* rice fails also.

In Bahjani, Pakoa and Dharmapur, there seems to have been a continuous struggle, since the earthquake, against unfavourable circumstances. It was a particularly rich tract before: it is the reverse now. Colonel Maxwell, Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, visited and reported on it in 1898. His recommendations were not accepted.

The ordinary village population in the distressed area are, so far as I can ascertain, almost all on short commons of rice, *i.e.*, a meal of rice, at one or more days' interval: the poorer are worse off. They are beginning to sell jewellery, pots, and cattle. The people who are worse off are—

(1) those who ordinarily subsisted by begging;

(2) those who are bankrupt owing to causes other than scarcity of crops;

(3) large families with few male members.

I will submit a further report if I find that anything is to be added to the above, but I may as well note here that the raiyats are extremely patient in their misfortunes.

I offered work at the kheddahs at Beljuri for 100 men. Very few have come forward, as they say those who could be spared went to tea gardens and the rest cannot leave their houses and families. I believe this to be true.

4. At the same time there is no famine. Nalbari in the scarcity 25 years ago was supplied by importation of rice up the Barnadi, now completely silted up. Many of the raiyats have money to buy rice, but the commonest sort sells at Rs. 5 to Rs. 5-4 a maund, because the only source of supply is *viâ* Rangia from Gauhati, and the Kayahs are not big enough here to import large quantities. Moreover, they have tried to grind the raiyats, by keeping supplies low. At to-day's *hat* they reduced the price from Rs. 5 to Rs. 4-12 through fear, because I am here, although I did not go to the *hat*. Ludicrous as this may seem, it is the truth.

5. I consider much of the distress due to short supply of good rice (most of what is sold is old and bad) for those who wish to buy. Accordingly I have arranged to open within a few days the road between Bijlighat and Nalbari to cart traffic, and it will be kept open free of ferry-tolls for the rest of the rains. I have ordered this fact to be announced in Gauhati, and have asked the Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara, to announce it and to encourage traders to come up with rice.

I would have ordered 500 maunds from Gauhati and sold it at cost price (Rs. 4) at Bijlighat in the next few days, only I am not sure of the desirability of interfering with the ordinary fluctuations of trade. I shall do it at my own risk if rice does not come within ten days or a fortnight. Bijlighat is 9 miles from Nalbari and less from some parts of the affected area: and it has direct boat communication with Gauhati and Goalpara.

6. I at one time thought that in certain cases gratuitous relief would be called for. I am now inclined to think that if supplies are poured in and prices forced down (I am afraid they will not go below Rs. 4 per maund), the relief of absolute paupers may be left to private charity, as they are very scattered, two or three in a village. At the same time, if the condition of absolute paupers becomes worse and they become more numerous, something will have to be done. I think it will be best to wait and see what happens. If the Administration approves of the importation of rice by officials, I should be glad of a telegram

to that effect. The local Kayahs are men of no capital, and will not rise to the occasion. They import rice in driblets and keep the price high and the quality low.

7. I have found three or four cases of what I considered immediately prospective starvation, and them I relieved, and will look at again. But I consider such cases very rare, but what will happen before the next crop is a matter of speculation. The state of things will have to be carefully watched. Fortunately, Babu Banga Chandra Chaudhuri, the tahsildar of Nalbari, is a man on whom I can rely. He can be depended upon to report how things go and will not exaggerate the state of affairs.

8. I have the honour to state that I have no clerk here, and as I wish to start for Amoni early to-morrow, am unable to keep a copy of this report for transmission to the Commissioner. I would, therefore, request that you would be good enough to send a copy to the Commissioner from your office, if you consider it desirable. In conclusion, I would ask you to excuse any deficiencies in this letter, which I have been obliged to write in a hurry.

Enclosure 4 in No. 168.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, No. 1173 *Misc.*—4974 *G., dated Shillong, the 2nd July,* 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated Camp Nalbari, the 28th June, 1901, submitting a report on the scarcity in parts of the Nalbari tahsil.

2. In reply, I am to say that the Chief Commissioner awaits a further report from you on the completion of your enquiries. So far as your present report shows, it does not appear that there is any need for extensive measures of relief, and there is no lack of employment for the people. It is probable, however, that many individual cases of destitution may be found in the areas affected, and you should continue to exercise vigilance with a view to taking prompt action in any cases in which gratuitous relief may be required. You should, however, be careful to avoid doing anything which might deter or discourage private charity.

3. The Chief Commissioner approves of the action taken by you in opening the road to Bijlighat for cart traffic. The cost of this measure should be borne by the Gauhati Local Board. The importation of rice to the tracts where scarcity prevails should be encouraged by every means, and there can be little doubt that the merchants from Gauhati will come forward if they are appealed to and the facts of the case are brought to their notice. The Chief Commissioner does not, however, consider it advisable that you should yourself purchase rice ; and you should refrain from any attempt to regulate arbitrarily the price at which it is sold. I am to request that in your next report the result of the measures taken by you may be stated, and the position of Bijlighat more particularly specified, the name of the river or channel on which it is situated being mentioned.

4. I am to add that Mr. Cotton would be glad to receive further information regarding the alleged failure of the *ahu* crop, and of the extent to which land is being planted out for the *sali* harvest.

Enclosure 5 in No. 168.

Letter from H. C. Barnes, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam. No. 1244, *dated Gauhati, the 5th July,* 1901.

In reply to your letter, No. 1173 Misc.—4974 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, and in continuation of my former report on the scarcity at Nalbari, I have the

honour to say that at Amoni the scarcity is not more severely felt than in other parts of the tahsil, which I have described as not being acutely affected. In Jagra, on the other hand, it is acutely felt, and I found instances of complete destitution similar to those discovered at Madhupur. I am causing enquiries to be made in Uttar Barkhetri mauza, Hajo tahsil, where I fear a similar state of things prevails.

2. The area in which distress is severe includes the southern part of Pakoa (villages Jagra, Goalpara, Bongaon, Pakoa, Bornadi, and others) the scantily-populated flooded areas in Dharmapur and Pakoa, south and west of the villages named above, the southern portion of Bahjani mauza, and the northern part of Borkhetri in Hajo. I estimate the total number of cases of absolute destitution as about 200 ; but, of course, there are many more cases of hardship.

The difficulty in this case is to find out and relieve cases of destitution. It will probably mean the transportation of rice to villages, as many of the people could not march to the tahsil office to receive rice. Want of proper roads will also be another difficulty. I understand that there is a possibility of subscriptions coming in from the people resident in Gauhati town, and if this proves to be the case, any measures adopted will be taken after consultation with a committee of subscribers. At present I propose to make a complete list of all hard cases and to leave it to the tahsildar to relieve them, keeping him supplied with a stock of rice for that purpose.

I have explained to him that relief is only to be given in cases similar to those seen by me while in his company.

I also propose to take in hand the repairs of the road between Nalbari and Amoni, in order to provide the people with a means of obtaining money for the purchase of rice. I am not sure that the Local Board will be able to afford this expenditure, in which case an application will be made to Government for a grant for the purpose.

3. Bijlighat is a ferry on the Gauhati-Nalbari road, and is nine miles from Nalbari on the Gauhati side, at the Chowlkhowa Nadi. Boat traffic is possible between Gauhati and that place, and in floods boats can get up to Nalbari by the new channel of the Noanadi, formed since the earthquake. Boat transport is cheaper than cart transport *viâ* Rangia. The Kayahs of Gauhati are said to have already despatched consignments of rice for Nalbari ; more doubtless will follow ; none is expected from Goalpara. Some, I hear, is coming from Barpeta, where the *ahu* crop has been good. I, therefore, expect a fall in the price, but none except a temporary reduction of 4 annas a maund had occurred up to the time I left Nalbari.

4. The cause of the partial, and in some villages almost total, failure of the *ahu* crop is the drought at the beginning of the year, which killed the crop or stunted it so that it was overgrown with weeds ; in the sandy mauzas, Pakoa, east and north of Dharmapur, and south of Bahjani, the causes are the nature of the soil and want of rain.

I saw large areas classed as first-class *rupit* land, on which *ahu* has been planted (the sand having made *sali* cultivation impossible, or where possible, precarious), and there was no probability of any crop resulting owing to the poorness of the soil. I refer particularly to Bongaon, Panigaon, Bihampur, Bornadi, Pakoa, and Jagra villages ; but the effect of want of rain on the *ahu* crop is general throughout Nalbari, Rangia, and parts of Patidarrang.

As to *sali*, I saw some very fine fields of seedlings, but the want of rain is still felt, and if rain holds off for three weeks, the prospects of the crop will be much affected. At present ploughing and planting have been much retarded, and the preparation of land for further sowings has been interfered with. Should there be general deficiency of rainfall, there will be little prospect of even fair crops in the drier portions of the tahsil. But at present there is no reason to suppose that the *sali* crops will be below the average, except in the sandy tracts. At present planting has hardly begun, and it is difficult to estimate the extent to which *sali dhan* will be planted this year, as so much depends on the weather.

5. I shall be glad of any expression of opinion by the Administration concerning the method by which relief should be given, and I hope to be informed how much money will be made available.

6. A copy of this letter has been sent to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, and the Director of Land Records, Assam.

Enclosure 6 in No. 168.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Officiating Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, No. 1199 Misc.—5204 G., dated Shillong, the 8th July, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1623 L.R., dated the 3rd July, 1901, forwarding copies of letters, dated the 25th and 26th June, 1901, from the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, reporting the result of his enquiries with regard to the alleged distress owing to scarcity of food-grains in the Patidarrang, Rangia, and Nalbari tahsils, together with his tour diaries for the period from the 20th to the 26th June, 1901, and also of the Deputy Commissioner's tour diaries for the period from the 29th June to the 3rd July inclusive, forwarded with your memorandums, Nos. 1644 L.R. and 1645 L.R., dated the 4th July, 1901.

2. In reply, I am to refer you to this office memorandum, No. 1173 Misc.—4975 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, forwarding a copy of this office letter, No. 1173 Misc.—4974 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, and of the Deputy Commissioner's report of the 28th June, to which it was a reply, and to say that the Chief Commissioner sanctions the expenditure by the Deputy Commissioner of a sum not exceeding Rs. 500 on the gratuitous relief of persons who are in genuine distress and unable to work. It is unnecessary to emphasise the need of vigilance in this direction, but the Chief Commissioner observes that, in paragraph 6 of his report of the 28th June referred to above, Mr. Barnes expressed the opinion that gratuitous relief was not required at present.

3. As regards the proposal to start relief works, I am to say that the Chief Commissioner is doubtful how far it would be advisable to take action in this direction now. It appears that a large number of raiyats have already gone to work on tea gardens, where, of course, there is a practically unlimited demand for labour, and that those who remain decline to do any work except near their homes. Probably these raiyats wish to remain at home so as to carry on their cultivation, and it is noticed that Mr. Barnes remarks in his letter of the 25th June that if road work were offered to them, they would probably plough their land in the morning and then work on the road in the afternoon. Relief works, therefore, if started now, would only benefit a few people in the immediate vicinity, and in the present season of the year, would probably be a waste of money. By the cold weather, it may be hoped that the present scarcity will have passed, and, if it has not, it may be presumed that there will be ample employment available, and that the raiyats will be more willing than they are now to leave their homes in search of work. I am, however, to invite attention to the approval accorded in paragraph 3 of this office letter above referred to, to the immediate opening for cart traffic of the road from Nalbari to Bijlighat.

4. The Deputy Commissioner remarks in his diary of the 24th June that agricultural loans will be no relief—firstly, because the people most in want of money can give no security, and secondly, because any money given will be spent, not on their land, but in the purchase of rice. In this connection, I am to observe that though loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act cannot be given where there is no security, the Chief Commissioner does not think there is any reason why such loans should not be granted to raiyats who can furnish security to enable them to buy rice for the purpose of tiding over a period of scarcity. One of the objects for which loans may be given under section 4 (1) of the Agriculturists' Loans Acts is the relief of distress, and Mr. Cotton thinks that it is certainly preferable that assistance should be granted to cultivators in

this way, wherever possible, rather than in the eleemosynary and pauperising form of relief works or gratuitous relief. It must be remembered that the position of Government in making loans to its own tenants is on a somewhat different footing from the position of Government when it makes ordinary loans under the Act. More than ordinary liberality may, therefore, be shown, and the Chief Commissioner would approve of relaxing somewhat the rules limiting the amount of loans in cases where a loan is applied for by a body of Government cultivators on their joint and several security. An allotment of Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned for loans to agriculturists in your division during the current year.

5. With reference to the statement in paragraph 4 of the Deputy Commissioner's letter No. 1244, dated the 5th July, 1901, a copy of which has been forwarded to you, that he saw near Nalbari large areas classed as first-class *rupit* land, on which *ahu* had been planted, the sand having made *sali* cultivation impossible, or where possible, precarious, and to the remarks in his diaries of the 27th and 29th June, that in places it will be necessary, not only to reclassify villages, but to reclassify land in villages, and that it is to the interest of Government to keep the raiyats on the damaged land, I am to say that Mr. Cotton is at a loss to understand why effect was not given long ere this to the orders contained in paragraph 7 of the Chief Commissioner's Resolution, No. 2869 R., dated the 3rd June, 1898, directing that in the districts of Kamrup and Nowgong, as well as in the Mangaldai subdivision of the Darrang district, the assessment of *rupit* land held under periodic lease at full rates, which were damaged by sand deposits resulting from the earthquake and floods of 1897, so as to be rendered unfit for the cultivation of transplanted rice, and which had not since been relinquished, should be reduced to *faringati* rates for the remainder of the term of the current settlement. An explanation of the apparent disregard of these orders has already been called for in paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 4 U.O.—1050 R., dated the 30th April, 1901, and I am to request that it may be submitted without delay, and that you will instruct the Deputy Commissioner to lose no time in giving the widest publicity to the concession sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, and to see that the reduction of classification of *rupit* lands which have become covered with sand is carried out in a liberal spirit, wherever required, in accordance with the orders referred to. It would not surprise the Chief Commissioner to learn that some of the distress now reported from North Kamrup is attributable to the neglect of the local officers to comply with his clear instructions passed more than three years ago for the relief and assistance of the Government tenantry residing within the distressed area.

No. 169.

Letter from R. E. V. Arbuthnot, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 3172—126-2, dated Simla, the 15th August, 1901.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Monahan's letter No. 217-Misc.—5705 G., dated 24th July, 1901, relating to the scarcity of food-grains in parts of the Kamrup District.

2. The Government of India agree with you that it would be useless to open relief works, and they approve of the action taken in granting loans with special liberality and some gratuitous relief. I am, however, to observe that so long as care is taken to restrict gratuitous relief to the dependants of indigent families, a larger sum than Rs. 500 might perhaps be expended without undue liberality.

No. 170.

Letter from F. J. Monahan, Esq., the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1446 Misc.—6340 G., dated Shillong, the 22nd August, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 1217 Misc.—5705 G., dated the 24th July, 1901, reporting on the scarcity of food-grains in the Kamrup District, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the papers noted in the margin, regarding the alleged distress in parts of the Sylhet District.

1. Letter, dated the 21st May, 1901, from Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, Zamindar, President of a public meeting held at Balaganj in the Sylhet District.
2. Memorandum No. 913 Misc.—4221 G., dated the 6th June, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.
3. Letter No. 990 Misc.—4292 G., dated the 8th June, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.
4. Telegram, dated the 2nd July, 1901, from the Secretary to the Sunamganj *Hitasadhini Sabha*.
5. Memorandum No. 1191 Misc.—5038 G., dated the 3rd July, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.
6. Letter, No. 673 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.
7. Letter No. 1198 Misc.—5076 G., dated the 5th July, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.
8. Letter No. 812 G., dated the 1st August, 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.
9. Letter No. 857 G., dated the 9th August, 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, and enclosure.
10. Letter No. 1446 Misc.—6271 G., dated the 16th August, 1901, to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

2. The Chief Commissioner does not consider that the condition of affairs in the Sylhet District is such as to require special measures for the relief of distress. The Local Boards of the Karimganj, North Sylhet, Habiganj, and Sunamganj sub-Divisions, where scarcity is said to prevail, have allotted Rs. 200, Rs. 500, Rs. 2,000, and Rs. 5,000, respectively, for the gratuitous relief of distress, and a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner for loans, under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, to the poorer classes of cultivators who are not able to obtain loans from the money-lenders. The Chief Commissioner has no doubt that the Local Boards are in a position to afford charitable relief on the moderate scale that may be found necessary.

3. In the Chief Commissioner's opinion no large rice-producing tract like Sylhet can be brought to the verge of famine by the comparative failure of one season's crop, and it is sufficiently evident from the reports received that whatever distress may prevail is due to high prices, and not to any absolute deficiency of food-supply. There may be a few forlorn widows and helpless people who are suffering, and for these charitable relief at a time of pressure like the present may well be necessary; but it is quite certain that for those who are able and willing to work there is an ample demand for labour at reasonable rates, and for the purely beggar class, who would rather beg than work, it is sheer demoralisation to offer them gratuitous charity when they ought to seek honest employment. There has lately been ample rainfall in the Sunamganj sub-Division, the amount being in excess of the average, and there is every reason to expect that the coming harvest will be a bounteous one and that prices will soon fall. In the meantime, it must be remembered that in an exporting district like Sylhet high prices are not an unmixed evil, and are a source of prosperity to the producers.

4. The reports received from the Deputy Commissioner are of a re-assuring nature, and his personal observations clearly refute the exaggerated accounts which had been submitted by his subordinates and have also found their way into the public press.

Enclosure 1 in No. 170.

Letter from Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, Zamindar, President of the Public Meeting held at Balaganj, Sylhet, on the 20th May, 1901, to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Assam, dated Balaganj, the 21st May, 1901.

In forwarding herewith a copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the landholders and raiyats of Betrikool, Boaljur, and Lakhipur under the jurisdic-

tion of the Balaganj police station in the district of Sylhet, held on the 20th instant, attended by nearly 2,000 people, I have the honour respectfully to request that your honour will be so good as to order such measures to be adopted at an early date as to your honour may seem meet for the alleviation of the imminent danger of famine that is staring your honour's loyal subjects in the face.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING.

A meeting of the raiyats of Betrikool, Boaljur, and Lakhipur was held in the Balaganj Middle English School at 2.30 p.m. through the exertion of the Chaudhuri family of Boaljur, and under the patronage of Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*. Nearly 2,000 people were assembled there to witness the meeting, and the following respectable *zamindars* and *mirasdars* graced the meeting by their presence :

Babu Sasi Nath Chaudhuri
" Parsva Nath Chaudhuri
" Prasanna Kumar Chaudhuri
" Gita Govinda Chaudhuri
" Narendra Nath Chaudhuri
" Jatindra Nath Chaudhuri
" Satindra Nath Chaudhuri
" Radha Mohan Chaudhuri
} *Zamindars.*

" Kuloja Kanta Sen Purkaistha
" Gopal Chandra Purkaistha
" Krisna Kumar Purkaistha
" Pyari Mohan Purkaistha
" Kisori Mohan Purkaistha
" Tarachand Sen Purkaistha
" Surja Kumar Sen Chaudhuri
" Kashi Nath Majumdar
} *Mirasdars.*

" Braja Nath Datta.
" Kali Kumar Purkaistha, *zamindar*.
" Gauri Nath Sarma.
" Pyari Mohan Purkaistha, *Mirasdar*, Betrikool.
" Dinanath Sarma.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Chaudhuri, as a representative of the assembly, requested Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*, to accept the chair as President of the meeting, and he gladly did so.

First Proposal.

The circumstances of the raiyats of Betrikool, Boaljur, and Lakhipur are greatly regrettable. There is no other alternative of their being relieved from such emergencies but the kindness of our kind Government and the right-minded patriots. Poor raiyats are taking their meals once a day or two. They are already undone. Many of them have sold the seeds and the oxen to plough. Gold and silver ornaments are sold before. Scarcely any metallic pots with them to be sold. Further, they have also sold the betel-nut, etc., which they kept for their own use. Now they are in helpless condition. Shopkeepers do not sell them anything on credit.

Moreover, on account of no railway line up to date opened through Balaganj, we have to buy rice at the rate of Rs. 5 per maund in place of Rs. 3. Hardly any labour is to be had in the parganas. In a word, they are beset with danger. Therefore, the Government and the right-minded patriots should be asked help.

Proposed by—Kali Kumar Purkaistha, *zamindar*.

Seconded by—Sasi Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar*.

Accepted by all.

Second Proposal.

Request should be made to the Government to distribute paddy among the famine-stricken, or to lend them paddy until they have got rice enough to cover their wants.

Proposed by—Muhammad Haphaz, *zaigirdar.*

Seconded by—Narendra Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar.*

Accepted by all.

Third Proposal.

Sympathetic persons should be asked help through newspaper.

Proposed by—Ram Gopal Sarma.

Supported by—Parsva Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar.*

Accepted by all.

Fourth Proposal.

Request should be made to the Government to lend money to persons possessing landed property, holding their land as a security.

Proposed by—Braja Nath Datta, *mirasdar.*

Supported by—Kasi Nath Deb Majumdar, *mirasdar.*

Accepted by all.

Fifth Proposal.

Request should be made to the Government to postpone the date fixed for the payment of the revenues up to the last day of the month of February next.

Proposed by—Jatindra Nath Chaudhuri, *zamindar.*

Seconded by—Kali Kumar Purkaistha, *zamindar.*

Accepted by all.

A copy of the proceedings of the meeting should be forwarded to the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, and the President should request His Honour to inform him anything concerning these proposals before the 1st June, 1901 ; and also copies should be sent to the editors of " Bangabasi " and " Weekly Chronicle " for publication.

Proposed by—Braja Nath Datta.

Supported by—Kali Kumar Purkaistha.

Accepted by all.

The meeting was dissolved after a vote of thanks to the President.

Enclosure 2 in 170.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 913 *Misc.*—4221 *G., dated Shillong, the 6th June,* 1901.

Copy of letter, dated 21st May, 1901, from Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri, President of the public meeting held at Balaganj on the 20th May, 1901, and enclosure, forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, for favour of report and early return.

Enclosure 3 in No. 170.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, No. 990-Misc.—4292-G., dated Shillong, the 8th June, 1901.

I am directed to invite your attention to the article headed "Distress in North Sylhet," that has appeared in the "Weekly Chronicle," in its issue of the 4th June, 1901, and to request that you will be good enough to submit an early report on the subject.

Extract from the "Weekly Chronicle" of Sylhet, dated the 4th June, 1901.

DISTRESS IN NORTH SYLHET.

In our last issue we referred to the meeting held at Balaganj to devise means for the relief of distress in the parganas Betrikool, Boaljur and Lakhipur. Information has since reached us which shows that things have assumed alarming proportions. The parts most affected would appear to be the long stretch of the country lying between the two rivers Surma and the Kusiara. The fact is probably not very apparent to the authorities, but those who know anything of the present state of things in the mofussil will admit that chronic poverty, coupled with the successive failure of two crops, has reduced the people to exremities. The Sylhet Loan Office is daily besieged by a crowd for loans on securities which would cover the amount of the loan three times over. A single *mahajan* at Balaganj is reported to have lent out at no moderate rate of interest considerable sums upon securities aggregating over Rs. 25,000. On *hât* days scores of people are found going about with a silver ornament or a brass utensil to feed the starving mouths at home. Even people who have been *mahajans* themselves do now feel the pinch, and are secretly taking loans to quench the pangs of hunger. These are facts, and no exaggeration. Numbers of people are actually destitute. Many have flocked to the town, others are silently undergoing sufferings beyond endurance. A very pathetic incident has lately occurred which shows how matters actually stand. A man of the village of Shah Shakendar, near Lalabazar, has actually killed his daughter, about two or three years old, unable to meet her demands for food. The poor man is a day-labourer with his wife and two children to support. The family had been starving for a few days previous, when on Thursday last about two o'clock he returned from his day's work and was resting himself on the handle of a *dao*, thinking of his wretched condition. The unfortunate daughter raised a cry for food. The poor man entirely lost himself, and in a fit of utter despair gave the child a cut with the *dao* across her neck, and forthwith applied it to his own neck. In this last, however, he was not successful, owing to the intervention of his wife. The village chaukidar gave information to the thana, and the man was brought before the magistrate, Babu J. B. Nag, before whom he made a clean breast of the whole thing. On whom does the blood of the poor girl lie?

We understand applications are reaching the Deputy Commissioner for help under the Loans Act, and that Mr. Lees has directed Babu Rajani Kanta Dastidar, Extra Assistant Commissioner, to make the necessary enquiries. We are afraid, pending the inquiry, many souls will be relieved of the necessity for earthly help. The process is extremely dilatory, and renders the Act utterly useless for the present emergency. Cannot the Deputy Commissioner send one of the Extra Assistant Commissioners to the affected parts to ascertain if the present scarcity has come up to the "official type"? There is a sort of blindness about the Government. It does not invariably see until almost too late. This was lately demonstrated in the Central Provinces.

Enclosure 4 in No. 170.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Sunamganj Hitasadhini Sabha, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, dated Sunamganj, the 2nd July, 1901.

Serious distress and scarcity reported from several quarters of Sunamganj sub-division, the *Sabha* pray the Honourable Chief Commissioner to help.

Enclosure 5 in No. 170.

Memorandum by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 1191 Misc.—5038G., dated Shillong, the 3rd July, 1901.

Telegram, dated the 2nd July, 1901, from the Secretary to the Sunamganj *Hitasadhini Sabha*, forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, for favour of early report and return.

Enclosure 6 in No. 170.

Letter from D. H. Lees, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 673-G., dated Sylhet, the 2nd July, 1901.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum No. 913-Misc.—4221-G., dated the 6th June, 1901, and letter No. 990-Misc.—4292-G., dated the 8th idem, and, in reply, beg to submit the following report.

Distress has been reported to exist in all the subdivisions of the district, except South Sylhet. Enquiries have been made by the Subdivisional Officers in Habiganj, Karimganj, and Sunamganj, and by Babus Jagat Bandhu Nag and Kishori Mohan Sen, the Inspectors of Police, and others in the sadr subdivision. The areas where distress prevails are—

North Sylhet.—Sadr and Balaganj thanas, including Golabganj and Biswanath outposts.

Habiganj.—Baniachong and Nabiganj thanas.

Karimganj.—The north portion of the subdivision specially parganas Icchamati, Balaut, and the neighbouring parganas north of the Kusiara.

Sunamganj.—Sunamganj and Chattak thanas and Jagannathpur outpost.

The circumstances of the Sunamganj subdivision, dependant as it is largely on the *boro* crop, are different from those of the other three subdivisions, with which I will first deal. The distress in these subdivisions, is due to the poor harvest of late rice in 1900. The stocks of local rice are now exhausted throughout a great part of the district, and the people are compelled to buy imported Burma rice. Almost the whole surplus stock of rice of the bumper crop of 1899 was exported during 1900, despite the low prices then prevailing. There is undoubtedly real distress among the infirm and helpless, who are ordinarily dependent on charity, and among poor widows, who generally get a living by husking paddy. The reports received show that some people of this class were in actual want of food and required assistance, as they could not expect help from the *mirasdars*, who are themselves badly off. At my instance, the Local Boards of these three subdivisions have made provision for the relief of distress among this class of people. I do not think that any further measures are necessary, as the *aus* crop, of which the prospects are very good, should alleviate the distress by the end of July. The reaping of the early *aus* has aleady begun. People of the day-labourer class may not be able to get their customary three meals a day. This is, however, a very different thing from starvation. It was represented to me that men of this class were willing to work but could not obtain work, and it was suggested that work should be provided for them. The Public Works Department overseer, however, informed me that the few Sylhetias who applied to him for work were unwilling to work on the conditions proposed. The Chairman of the Municipality also informed me that it was difficult to get local labour for work such as drain cleaning. The managers of tea gardens cannot even now get local labour. These facts are inconsistent with the existence of severe distress among this class of people. In Karimganj sub-division, the Chairman, Local Board, provided work on the roads. The *aus* harvest will soon give ample employment. Complaints of distress have mainly come from the *mirasdars*, who are foremost in clamouring for Government assistance. It is matter of surprise that people, holding land under a permanent settlement subject only to the payment of a low or nominal land revenue in a district where the conditions are eminently favourable to their prosperity, should complain of distress after one deficient harvest, preceded, as it was, by a bumper harvest in 1899. Hundreds of applications for loans have been received from *mirasdars*, and if it is once understood that loans are to be given, hundreds more will pour in. It is one of the objects of the Agriculturists Loans Act to provide for the grant of loans for the relief of distress ; but, to quote from the Board of Revenue Manual, this Act is not intended to supersede

altogether the ordinary machinery of loans from *mahajans*, under which agricultural operations are carried on in this country. Its object is to enable the Government to step in and assist the more needy cultivators with loans on these occasions of unusual pressure, when the local *mahajans* are unwilling to run extraordinary risks. The *mirasdars* can give security and can get loans from the local *mahajans*. It is obviously impolitic to encourage the prevalent idea that Government will freely give loans. I do not think that under present circumstances, when the *aus* crop is about to be harvested, it is necessary to grant loans. I do not, therefore, propose at this juncture to grant loans. The Balaganj *mirasdars* have requested the Chief Commissioner to postpone the date fixed for the payment of revenue until February next. I have received a petition praying for the adjournment of the next revenue sales until January next. Considering the extremely light incidence of the land revenue in the permanently-settled portions of this district, I do not think that there is any ground for granting these requests.

The Subdivisional Officer of Sunamganj has given an alarming account of the distress prevailing in his subdivision. He reports that the failure of the *aman* and *boro* crops has reduced the bulk of the population of Jagannathpur, Sunamganj, and Chatak to the verge of starvation, and that many are actually starving. He further reports that as in the greater part of the area above mentioned *aus* is not grown, the condition of the people will become worse and worse until the *aman* crop is reaped. Owing to the absence of early rain this year, the *boro* crop is said to have yielded an outturn varying from 3 to 8 annas. I am, however, at a loss to understand how such widespread distress as the Subdivisional Officer reports can exist so soon after the *boro* harvest. The Sunamganj Local Board has provided a sum of Rs. 8,000 for the relief of distress, Rs. 2,000 for gratuitous relief, and Rs. 6,000 for loans to be given to *raiyats* unable to furnish security. The Subdivisional Officer has requested me to move the Chief Commissioner to sanction a grant of Rs. 8,000 to be given in loans to petty *talukdars*, who can give security. I cannot, however, make any recommendation on the point until I have made enquiries into the state of affairs in this subdivision. I am going to Jagannathpur this week, and will submit a further report as soon as possible.

Enclosure 7 in No. 170.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, No. 1198 *Misc.*—5076-*G., dated Shillong, the 5th July*, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 673G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, reporting on the scarcity in your district, I am directed to say that the Chief Commissioner is glad to receive this report, which appears much to the point and takes a sensible view of the case.

2. The Chief Commissioner is also glad to learn that the Local Boards of North Sylhet, Habiganj, and Karimganj have already made provision at your instance for the relief of the infirm and helpless. I am to request that you will be good enough to report what amount has been allotted for this purpose by each of the Local Boards referred to. It appears from your report that in these three subdivisions no further measures of relief are required, and Mr. Cotton agrees with you in thinking that loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act should not be granted to persons who are in a position to obtain loans from *mahajans* on reasonable terms. The Chief Commissioner also agrees with you that no grounds have been shown for postponing the revenue *kists* or the dates fixed for sales for arrears of revenue. Mr. Cotton awaits the further report promised by you on the state of affairs in the Sunamganj subdivision, and he trusts that it will be submitted at an early date.

3. I am to request that you will be so good as to return the petition of the Balaganj *mirasdars*, which was forwarded to you with this office memorandum No. 913 Misc.—4221-G., dated the 6th June, 1901.

Enclosure 8 in No. 170.

Letter from D. H. Lees, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner at Assam, No. 812 G., dated Sylhet, the 1st August, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 1198 Misc.—5076 G., dated the 5th July, 1901, I have the honour to say that the Local Boards of North Sylhet, Karimganj, and Habiganj have allotted Rs. 500, Rs. 200, and Rs. 2,000, respectively, for the relief of distress.

2. The petition of the Balaganj *mirasdars*, Babu Radha Nath Chaudhuri and others, is herewith returned.

Enclosure 9 in No. 170.

Letter from D. H. Lees, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, No. 857 G., dated Sylhet, the 9th August, 1901.

In continuation of my letter No. 673 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, I have the honour to submit the following report on the distress in Sunamganj and other sub-divisions of this district.

2. From information which I have received up to date, it does not appear that the distress in Sunamganj sub-division extends beyond the limits reported in my previous letter, *viz.*, Sunamganj and Chhatak thanas and Jagannathpur outpost. Babu Akshay Kumar Chatterji, Extra Assistant Commissioner, was lately on tour in Dharampasa thana, and from his diary it appears that there is no distress there. The manager of the estate of Maulvi Muhammad Ahiya informed me that in villages belonging to this estate in Dirai thana, the *boro* crop was about 8 or 10 annas. Both at Jagannathpur and Nabiganj, I saw several boat-loads of *boro* paddy brought for sale. The Subdivisional Officer is now on tour at Dirai, and will report on the condition of the people there if there is any distress.

3. In the abovementioned affected area the raiyats are mainly dependent on the long-stemmed *aman* rice. The *boro* paddy is a useful supplementary crop in many villages. The distress is due to the very short crop of *aman* rice, followed by the failure of the *boro* crop in this tract. In the villages situated in the eastern portion of Chhatak thana, and in the north-east of Jagannathpur outpost, there is *aus*, which is reported to have yielded a bumper outturn in the latter locality. Even among the villages mainly dependent on the *aman* crop, there are villages where there is no distress The state of affairs in the villages visited by me near Jagannathpur in July will appear from the annexed extracts from my tour diary. The Subdivisional Officer, however, has just reported that the condition of the people in that quarter and elsewhere has become much worse since then, and substantial cultivators who have a large number of dependents are said to be in great distress. From what I have myself seen, and from the information subsequently received, I have come to the following conclusion:

There is great distress among those ordinarily dependent on charity—the helpless and widows. People of this class are in actual want of food and require relief. Many petty cultivators who are dependent on the earnings of their labour find it difficult to obtain work in the villages. Many men of this class are accustomed to leave their homes to work as boatmen and do other work. The lime business at Chhatak provides work for a large number of men. In the neighbourhood of Jagannathpur there is a mat-making industry. There are, however, many who generally cut grass for cattle, and do other work in the villages for the more substantial cultivators and *mirasdars*, who are not now employed to the same extent as in other years. The cultivators generally are

badly off, and have to buy paddy, as stocks of paddy are mostly exhausted. Some of the poorer *mirasdars* or *talukdars*, who are dependent for a living on the produce of a small area of land, are also badly off.

4. The Chief Commissioner has sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 2,000 for the relief of distress. I have just received a report from the Subdivisional Officer, stating that a sum of Rs. 1,350 has already been drawn. The Subdivisional Officer cannot state the exact number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief, but roughly estimates the number to be not less than 1,200. He fears that the number of persons to whom it will be necessary to give gratuitous relief will gradually increase, and thinks that at least Rs. 2,500 will have to be spent monthly to save these people from starvation. The amount to be allotted for the relief of distress must, therefore, be increased. As the distress is not likely to cease until the end of November, when the harvesting of the *aman* rice will begin, a further sum of about Rs. 10,000 will, on this estimate, be required. The Subdivisional Officer has asked for a Government grant for gratuitous relief. He says that the Local Board is prepared to give Rs. 6,000 more. I think the Local Board should grant all money required for gratuitous relief. As the Sunamganj Local Board is not wealthy, a special provincial grant might be sanctioned in consideration of the exceptional character of the expenditure.

5. I think that small loans ordinarily not exceeding Rs. 10 should be given under the Agriculturists' Loans Act to the poorer cultivators and talukdars in distress. Loans cannot be granted to petty cultivators accustomed to depend on the earnings of labour, who cannot give any security. The Subdivisional Officer proposed that the Local Board should give loans to people of this class, but the Chief Commissioner has already expressed an opinion adverse to this proposal. It is impossible to provide relief work in the villages at this season of the year, when the country is inundated, but work, such as road-metalling, could be provided at Sunamganj and Chhatak. I have deputed Maulvi Tajammul Ali, Sub-Deputy Collector, to enquire into the condition of the people in Sunamganj.

In my last letter I reported that no further measures of relief would be required in North Sylhet, Karimganj and Habiganj. This statement requires some modification as regards the Baniachong and Nabiganj thanas of Habiganj sub-division. Except in the north-eastern portion of Nabiganj, *aus* is not ordinarily grown in the villages of these thanas. This year, owing to the small stocks of paddy in hand, many cultivators in the neighbourhood of Baniachong grew *aus* on land not suitable to its cultivation. Owing, however, to the very slow rise of water in the *haors*, the crop was safely harvested. Along the banks of the Barak river, above Nabiganj, there is a large amount of jute cultivation. In the *haors*, however, the villages are almost entirely dependent on the *aman* rice. There are villages in the extensive Makhalkandi and Makka *haors* north of Baniachong, where *boro* is the chief crop, and in some villages not too far off from these *haors*, *boro* cultivation is resorted to in order to supplement the main *aman* crop. Gratuitous relief has been given to the helpless and widows, but it is only at Baniachong that such relief has been so far required to any extent. The circumstances of Baniachong, with a large population of over 28,000, are exceptional. There is a large class of men dependent on daily labour, who now find it difficult to obtain work. The Subdivisional Officer started road-metalling work at Habiganj, and at the end of July 85 men were working there on daily wages of 5 annas, which are evidently not too high, since about 20 men deserted the work as soon as there was *aus* to be cut. Many cultivators have no stocks of paddy, and are now buying paddy. Loans should be given to the poorer cultivators and *bhadraloks* in distress. I have asked the Sub-divisional Officer to order Babu Kisori Mohan Sen, Extra Assistant Commissioner, to enquire into the condition of the people in Baniachong. If necessary, I will depute the new Sub-Deputy Collector, lately gazetted to Sadr, to make enquiries.

I would request you to obtain the sanction of the Chief Commissioner to the grant of Rs. 8,000 for agricultural loans. Of this amount, I propose to

allot Rs. 5,000 for Sunamganj, Rs. 2,000 for Habiganj, and to keep Rs. 1,000 for sadr, to be allotted as may be found necessary hereafter.

Annexure.

Extracts from the Tour Diary of the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet.

July 6th.—Jagannathpur.—Went through Bhowanipur, Sherpur, and Jatrapasa villages to enquire into the condition of the people. The head constable informed me that these villages were among those where the distress was worst. Bhowanipur is a fairly large village, with a population of Chandals, Muhammadans, Dases and Brahmins. Only a few of the Chandals cultivate a little land: they depend on fishing, work as boatmen, etc., and are not now in distress. The Muhummadans are almost all petty cultivators, holding 5 or 6 *kiars* of land. Out of about 30 houses, only ·5 have cattle. The men make mats, cut grass, and do other work. One man, with $2\frac{1}{2}$ *hals* of land, says he has no paddy in stock. There are two widows, who seem able to get on without relief. There are six houses of Dases, who are substantial cultivators, each family holding 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ *hals* of land. They have a little paddy in stock. There are five houses of Brahmins who are now not well off, but have relatives in service. One man, who knew English, and had formerly been a clerk in the Collectorate, complained that he could not get money from the money-lenders, and therefore wanted a Government loan. In Jatrapasa, there are 35 houses of Gopes, who are well off, nearly all being talukdars. There is excellent grazing in the *haors* in the cold weather, and these people get an income from the sale of milk and ghi. The village money-lender is a Gope. He says he has lent Rs. 500 this year. The complaint is that he will not assist those in difficulties. In Sherpur I visited the houses of Muhammadans of the same class as in Bhowanipur. A talukdar, with a yearly income of Rs. 500 or Rs. 600, says that he has debts amounting to Rs. 1,200, of which Rs. 800 had been incurred in litigation over some land worth a little more than Rs. 300. In the afternoon, about 300 or 400 raiyats came in from the villages for many miles round. They were brought by their *mirasdars* as representatives of these *mirasdars*, some of whom are pleaders at Sunamganj. They were of two classes —the petty cultivators accustomed to labour, and the substantial cultivators with a *hal* or more land—most of them said that they were buying paddy and wanted loans from Government.

1 *hal* = 12 *kiars* = $12\frac{1}{3}$ *bighas* = $4\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

July 7th.—In the morning went with the Subdivisional Officer, who had arrived the previous evening, to Dostpur and part of Kubazpur. The population of Dostpur consists of Jugis and Muhammadans, all of the petty cultivator class, holding 4 or 5 *kiars* of land. The Muhammadans are accustomed to leave their homes for work. I found some who had just returned from working as boatmen, and others were absent from home. The Jugis depend on miscellaneous work, such as cutting grass for cattle. They are not well off; one widow and one *fakir* only require assistance. In Sundarpur, a part of Kubazpur village, a Brahmin, whose nephew was away, complained that he could not get food. There were also some widows in need of assistance. In the afternoon visited the *hat*. There were several boats with paddy from Dirai, which was sold at the rate of Rs. 2-11 per maund, according to calculations, as paddy is not sold by the seer or maund. There was only one boat with Burma rice. The *nal* mats made in the villages were being sold at 2 annas each.

Nabiganj, July 9th.—In the morning visited Kanaipur and Pirizpur villages, near Nabiganj. Kanaipur is inhabited mainly by Mahimals, of whom there are over 50 houses. Most of the Mahimals have only a little land, generally 3 or 4 *kiars*. Two men only had over a *hal* of land. All are buying paddy. The Mahimals depend mainly on fishing. They are better off now than they were a little time ago, before the water had risen in the *haors*. There are three widows who get a living by begging. One blind man has received relief at the thana. Others are not in need of relief now. In Pirizpur there are between 20 and 30 houses of Chandals, nearly all of whom have a little cultivation, generally only 2 or 3 *kiars*. They depend on work as boatmen, servants,

&c. There are two widows who have no relatives to support them. They get a living by buying paddy and preparing *chira* ; none require any relief. I afterwards had an interview with two members of the Local Board, who had come to see me about the present condition of the people which they described as being worse than they had ever known. This was *hât* day. There were six boats with paddy from Dirai for sale. The price is said to be Rs. 2-5 per maund, and is lower than hitherto. The number of people buying paddy is large. Most of the people are able to buy such luxuries as *pan*, *supari*, jack-fruit, &c. There were no fewer than 21 boat-loads of jack-fruit for sale. Hitherto there has been a large sale of sweet potatoes, which are imported from Mymensingh and sold at a very cheap rate. The season is, however, passing, and there were only two boat-loads at this *hât*.

July 10*th*.—In the morning went to Dattagram, as the Local Board members had informed me that this was one of the villages where the distress was worst. I first visited the Chandals' quarters. All the men of seven houses were absent working. All have a little land, but depend on their labour. There are 45 or 50 houses of Muhammadans, of whom three or four are substantial talukdars with 3 or 4 *hals* of land. These have some paddy in stock. The others are all buying paddy. Nearly all have 2 *kiars* or more *boro* cultivation. I next visited the quarter of the Dases, of whom there are 40 or 50 houses. Nearly all have a little *boro* cultivation. The crop is said to have been such an utter failure that they did not take the trouble to cut it. One old man, however, more truthful than the others, said that he got a few maunds *boro* paddy from the small area cultivated by him. The yield was undoubtedly very poor. The old man, who has 2½ *hals* of land, says that he has still a little paddy in stock. The others say that they are buying paddy. I saw no signs of distress. No one applied to me for loan.

Baniachong, *July* 17*th*.—At Baniachong. There is considerable distress among the poorer classes here. I saw Babu Debendra Nath Nandy, who has been entrusted with the distribution of gratuitous relief here. It is clear that the amount of gratuitous relief must increase. There is a large class dependent on work, which is now scarce. The Local Board had some jungle-cutting done, and there were over 100 men ready to work. This work has been stopped, but road-metalling is to be started immediately at Habiganj. Azman Reza, the principal *mirasdar* here, came to see me. He said that there are widows of respectable family, and also men who cannot take alms, and are very badly off. Loans can be given to people of this class.

Enclosure 10 in No. 170.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, No. 1446 *Misc.*—6271 *G., dated Shillong, the* 16*th August*, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 857 G., dated the 9th August, 1901, reporting on the scarcity in Sunamganj and other subdivisions of the Sylhet District. From this report it is evident that the state of affairs in the Sunamganj Subdivision has been greatly exaggerated. In your letter No. 673 G., dated the 2nd July, 1901, you stated that the Subdivisional Officer of Sunamganj had reported to the effect that the bulk of the population of the Sunamganj and Chhatak thanas and the jurisdiction of the Jagannathpur outpost had been reduced to the verge of starvation, or were actually starving. From your diaries of the 6th to 10th July it appears that you visited some of the villages near Jagannathpur, in which the worst distress was reported to prevail, and made careful enquiries, but found no cases of actual distress, except those of a few destitute widows and beggars.

2. I am to say that the Chief Commissioner considers it improbable that so large an amount as Rs. 12,000 will be required for gratuitous relief in the

Sunamganj Subdivision. There is a danger that a too liberal appropriation of funds for this purpose may result in waste, and in money being distributed to people who are not really in distress. I am to convey the Chief Commissioner's sanction to the further allotment by the Sunamganj Local Board of a sum of Rs. 3,000 for gratuitous relief in addition to the amount of Rs. 2,000 already allotted by them. Mr. Cotton considers it essential that the agents to whom the distribution of gratuitous relief is entrusted should be required to keep registers of the persons relieved by them, and that these registers should be frequently scrutinised by the Subdivisional Officer and by yourself, as opportunity affords, in order to ensure that the money is properly applied. Gratuitous relief should be restricted to people who are really destitute and helpless, and should not be given to the able-bodied who are in a position to find work. I am to add that the Chief Commissioner does not contemplate making any additional grant from Provincial funds to the Sunamganj Local Board, and the outlay on gratuitous relief must be met by curtailment of the Board's expenditure under other heads.

3. It is observed that a large proportion of those who are at present feeling the effects of scarcity in Sunamganj and Habiganj belong to classes who possess little or no cultivation of their own, and who are accustomed to leave their homes in search of work. I am to say that an effort should be made to induce these people to seek employment in the Sylhet District, and it might be well if you were to bring to the notice of tea planters the supply of local labour, which is said to be at present available.

4. Your proposal to grant loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act to the poorer classes of cultivators, who are not able to obtain loans from money-lenders, meets with the Chief Commissioner's approval. In this connection, I am to refer you to this office letter No. 71 Budget—564 A., dated the 4th April, 1901, by which a sum of Rs. 1,000 was placed at your disposal for loans to agriculturists during the current year. The Chief Commissioner now sanctions a further allotment of Rs. 4,000 for this purpose for your district, and trusts that you will distribute it judiciously.

III.

STATEMENTS
REGARDING FAMINE MADE IN THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

No. 171.

STATEMENT ON THE FAMINE OF 1899-1900

MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HELD AT SIMLA ON 19TH OCTOBER, 1900.

Exactly a year ago to-day I made a speech in this Council upon the then impending Famine. Throughout the twelve months that have intervened, this Famine, which within the range of its incidence has been the severest that India has ever known, has been the main preoccupation of Government. It has engrossed our whole attention, has placed a terrible strain both upon our resources and our officials, has disorganised our finances, and has addressed a perpetual and irresistible appeal to our individual humanity. Now that it is drawing to a close, it may not be inappropriate that I should attempt to sum up the results of the past year's experience; so that the public may realise within a short compass what the Great Famine of 1899-1900 has meant, how we have endeavoured to meet it, what a mark it has left, or will leave, upon the history of the country, and what is the teaching that may be derived from a study of its features.

We cannot, I think, be accused of having failed to anticipate or to provide for this great drought. Our anxiety as to the prospects dated from as far back as July, 1899. In the early autumn the Local Governments and ourselves were busily occupied in making preparations for the possible failure of the monsoon. When I spoke in October, relief-operations had already commenced, and half a million persons were on relief. The numbers rapidly rose month by month, till in July last they touched the unprecedented total of considerably more than six millions of persons. Even now over two millions are still in receipt of relief; though we hope that, in the course of next month, the necessity may disappear, and that the whole of this number may be drafted away to their homes.

The main statistical features of the Famine are already sufficiently well known and may be briefly dismissed. It has affected an area of over 400,000 square miles, and a population of about 60 millions, of whom 25 millions belong to British India and the remainder to Native States. Within this area the Famine conditions have, during the greater part of the year, been intense. Outside it they have extended with a gradually dwindling radius over wide districts which have suffered much from loss of crops and cattle, if not from actual scarcity. In a greater or less degree nearly one-fourth of the entire population of the Indian Continent have come within the range of relief-operations. It is difficult to express in figures with any close degree of accuracy the loss occasioned by so widespread and severe a visitation. But it may be roughly put in this way. The annual agricultural production of India and Burma averages in value between 300 and 400 crores of rupees. On a very cautious estimate the production in 1899-1900 must have been at least one-quarter, if not one-third, below the average. At normal prices the loss was at least 75 crores, or 50 millions sterling. In this estimate India is treated as a whole. But in reality the loss fell on a portion only of the Continent, and ranged from almost total failure of crop in Guzarat, Berar, Chhattisgarh and Hissar, and in many of the Rajputana States to 20 and 30 per cent. in districts of the North-Western Provinces and Madras,

which were not reckoned as falling within the Famine tract. If to this be added the value of some millions of cattle, some conception may be formed of the destruction of property which a great drought occasions. There have been many great droughts in India, but there has been no other of which such figures could be predicated as these.

It must further be remembered that, unlike previous Famines, that of 1900 was separated by the short space of only two years from a drought not greatly inferior to it in extent and scarcity. Some tracts which suffered in 1896–97 have been fortunate enough to escape in 1899–1900. But the most calamitous feature of the recent famine has been that there were others which not only suffered again, but suffered in a worse degree. This was the case in the Central Provinces and in portions of Rajputana, Central India, the South-East Punjab, and the Bombay Dekkhan. Apart from this area of twofold distress, the centre of gravity tended on the present occasion to shift towards the west. The cluster of Native States lying between the Nerbudda, the Jumna and the Sutlej were swept into the area of scarcity. Finally, the fertile provinces of Guzarat and Kathiawar, whose rainfall is generally so abundant and so steady that they have been styled the Garden of India, were attacked ; and there, in proportion as the immunity hitherto enjoyed has been the longest, so was the suffering the most widespread and enduring.

This was the situation with which we were confronted a year ago, and which has gradually developed since. It was not merely a crop failure, but a fodder famine on an enormous scale, followed in many parts by a positive devastation of cattle—both plough cattle, buffaloes, and milch kine. In other words, it affected, and may almost be said to have annihilated, the working capital of the agricultural classes. It struck some of them when they were still down from the effects of the recent shock. It struck others who had never before known what calamity was, and who were crushed and shattered by the suddenness and directness of the blow. It attacked Native States to whose Durbars had never previously been brought home the obligation of famine relief on an extended scale and whose dearth of administrative staff was enhanced by the poverty of their financial resources. It laid its hand upon primitive hill men, unused to discipline or restraint, impulsive, improvident, lazy, living in an almost barbarous state in wild and inaccessible jungles. It sharpened the lurking nomadic instinct of wandering tribes, and sent them aimlessly drifting about the country, a terror to the Famine-officer, and an incubus to the camps. For a year it never left hold of its victims ; and one half of the year had not elapsed before famine had brought its familiar attendant furies in its train ; and cholera, dysentery and fever had fallen upon an already exhausted and enfeebled population. This is the picture of suffering that India has presented during the past year. Let us now examine the steps that have been taken to ameliorate it.

In such diverse circumstances the methods of relief, the difficulties encountered, and the degree of success attained, have varied greatly. The preceding famine had bequeathed experiences and lessons of the utmost value, which were carefully gathered up by the Commission of 1898, and which have profoundly affected the policy of the present famine. The stress laid by the Commission on the necessity for starting relief before the people have run down ; their advocacy of more extensive gratuitous relief, especially in the form of kitchen relief; their recommendations concerning the special treatment of aboriginal and forest tribes ; their approval of small or village relief-works in special circumstances in preference to large works,—these and other injunctions will be found to have influenced our measures and shaped our course throughout the famine. The Commission's recommendations were generally in the direction of greater flexibility in relief methods and greater liberality of relief. The dangers of ill-regulated profusion are obvious ; and, apart from all considerations of cost it would be a national misfortune if relief were ever made so facile or so pleasant as to destroy the self-respect and self-reliance of the people. But the Commission were not unmindful of this danger ; and their findings amounted to this, that they recognised that in the last famine we had not succeeded in preventing great mortality and suffering, and that they thought better results

might be attainable by a larger expenditure of money and a somewhat greater regard to the circumstances of special localities and classes. They said in effect that, if it was good policy to combat a famine, it was good policy to combat it effectively. It is possible that in certain directions their recommendations erred on the side of over-liberality. Their wage-scale is an instance. It was tried in all provinces at the commencement of the present famine, but was speedily reduced by the independent consent of all Local Governments. Again, their advocacy of gratuitous relief may be said by some to have led in the present famine to a scale of alms-giving unprecedented in magnitude, and likely to embarrass future famine administration. This question I will discuss in a moment. I merely mention the matter now to show that, in the present famine, we have broken new ground, and, acting upon the lessons of its predecessor, we have accepted a higher standard of moral and financial obligation than has ever before been recognised or acted upon in this or any country.

If, indeed, a special characteristic should be attributed to our campaign of Famine relief in the past year, it has been its unprecedented liberality. There is no parallel in the history of India, or in that of any country in the world, to the total of over 6 million persons who, in British India and the Native States, have for weeks on end been dependent upon the charity of Government. Let me compare these figures with those of the preceding Famine. In 1897, the high-water mark of relief was reached in the second fortnight of May, when there were nearly 4 million persons on relief in British India. Taking the affected population of 40 millions, the ratio of relief was 10 per cent. In one district of Madras, and in two districts of the North-Western Provinces, the ratio for some months was about 30 per cent., but these were exceptional cases. In the most distressed districts of the Central Provinces 15 or 16 per cent. was regarded in 1896–97 as a very high standard of relief. Now take the figures of the present year. For some weeks in June and July upwards of $4\frac{1}{2}$ million persons were on relief in British India. Reckoned on a population of, say, 25 millions, the ratio of relief was 18 per cent. as compared with 10 per cent. in 1897. In many districts the proportion exceeded 20 per cent. In several it exceeded 30 per cent. In two districts it exceeded 40 per cent. In the small district of Merwara, where Famine has been present for two years, 75 per cent. of the population has been on relief. Nothing that I might say can intensify the simple eloquence of these figures.

The next test that I apply is that of the number of officers whom we have lent, both to British districts and to Native States, to reinforce the overworked and, in many cases, undermanned local establishments. From the Army 84 Staff Corps officers, 17 Native officers, 10 British non-commissioned officers and privates, and 228 Native non-commissioned officers and privates, have been deputed, for periods of various length, to Famine duty in British India and Native States. They have done excellent work. Including the above, the total number of public officials deputed from civil and military employ to Famine duty has amounted to 637. Among these were 35 Assistant Surgeons and 141 Hospital Assistants, 44 Civil Engineers, 10 Royal Engineers and 24 Public Works subordinates. Large as these numbers were, we would gladly have sent more, had the men been forthcoming. Since the Famine began, I cannot recall ever having refused an application, if it was possible to grant it. We literally scoured the remaining provinces of India for the loan of men, and with great generosity, wherever practicable, their Governments responded to the appeal. After my return from Guzarat, we collected and sent down a large number of additional Hospital Assistants, of whom I had noted a regrettable paucity, to Bombay. Similarly in the Native States, as the Chiefs and Durbars have repeatedly acknowledged, it has only been owing to the administrative knowledge, the unflagging energy, and the devotion of the British officers whom we have lent to them, that they have escaped a disastrous breakdown.

My third test is that of financial outlay. The direct expenditure on Famine relief in British India and in Berar, from the commencement of relief operations up to the end of August, has been 854 lakhs of rupees. We estimate a further expenditure of about 150 lakhs up to the 31st March next, making in all in round numbers about 10 crores of rupees. In loans and advances to

land-holders and cultivators, we have expended Rs. 238 lakhs. We have made advances for plough-cattle and for agricultural operations this autumn free of interest, and on very easy terms as to eventual repayment; and our expectation is that not more than one-half will be recovered. In the matter of land-revenue, our latest estimate is that, of a demand of Rs. 392 lakhs in the Central Provinces and Bombay, Rs. 164 lakhs will be uncollected during the year. In the distressed districts of the Punjab, suspensions aggregating Rs. 41 lakhs are anticipated. With these figures I compare those for the Famine of 1896–97, calling attention, however, to the fact that, in 1896–97, the area and population in British India affected by Famine were considerably larger than in the present year. The total direct expenditure on Famine relief was 727 lakhs of rupees; 130 lakhs were advanced as *takkavi*; and land revenue to the amount of about 2 crores was suspended. In this comparison, our further outlay in connection with relief in Native States has been omitted, for the reason that, in 1896–97, the calls upon us in that respect were insignificant. In the present Famine, our loans to Native States in Rajputana have amounted to 69 lakhs of rupees; to Native States in the Bombay Presidency we have lent 78 lakhs of rupees, besides guaranteeing the repayment of loans to the amount of 105 lakhs of rupees borrowed by other States in the market. We have also come to the assistance of Nizam of Hyderabad, whose extensive dominions have suffered from severe drought. In all, our actual loans to Native rulers in connection with the present Famine amount in the aggregate to over 3½ crores. This is exclusive of the guaranteed loans. Without this assistance it may be safely said that the States would have been wholly unequal to the task of relieving their subjects, and even in some cases of carrying on the ordinary administration of their territories.

I now pass to an examination of the methods of Famine-relief which we have adopted. In one respect they have differed materially from those of the preceding Famine. Profiting by its lessons, we have learned to apply a much more flexible system. Thus in 1897 the effective relief of the aboriginal races in the Central Provinces was regarded as an insoluble problem. They suffered and perished in their jungles. This year congenial work and extensive gratuitous relief were provided for them in the forests, and the Gonds and Baigas have survived with no exceptional mortality. Again, whereas in 1897 there was a terrible mortality in the Central Provinces when the rains set in, owing to the abrupt closing of relief works without a simultaneous expansion of home or village relief; in the present year we have scattered broadcast over the country an extensive system of kitchen relief upon which, while no one disputes its general necessity or its success, the only criticism that has been passed is that it has erred on the side of liberality, and has been abused by able-bodied persons who preferred to be fed for nothing in the kitchens to earning their own livelihood in the fields. In 1897, the complaint was one of parsimony and lack of preparation. If we have now in some cases gone too far in the opposite direction, some allowance must be made for the natural recoil from earlier mistakes.

Guzarat supplies another instance of the degree in which we have accentuated and added to the flexibility of the Famine Code. When the great outbreak of cholera had disorganised the large relief works, and had driven the terrified workers away to their homes, and when extraordinarily high death rates revealed the existence of very widespread destitution and suffering, the Government of India did not hesitate to advise the Bombay Government to meet the situation by enlarging the customary bounds of gratuitous relief, and by opening petty village works to take the place of the deserted Public Works relief camps. The effect of this policy was that, whereas in the middle of May the number of persons on gratuitous relief in the five districts of Guzarat was little more than 50,000, at the end of June it had risen to 150,000; at the end of July to 308,000; and by the middle of August to 385,000, the last figure representing more than 12 per cent. of the entire population of those districts. Before the present famine, such a percentage would have been regarded as a flagrant abuse of famine relief. We were, however, satisfied that a strict adherence to the labour-test principle would, in June and July last, have failed to meet the very special set of circumstances created by the cholera outbreak in Guzarat, and I

have no doubt that the satisfactory decline in the death rate was largely due to the policy adopted.

In drawing attention, however, to the greater liberality of relief that has been practised, the question may be asked whether it was after all only due to the superior intensity of this year's famine, or whether it has denoted greater efficiency and perfection of method, or has perhaps only been the result of promiscuous and thoughtless charity. Some part of it must no doubt be attributed to the greater severity of the recent distress which I have already demonstrated. Upon the second head, we may safely claim to have profited by experience in the improvement of our relief arrangements, and in their more accurate adaptation to the special circumstances of different districts, the special requirements of different classes, and the different seasons of the year. No critic would dispute this proposition. As regards the third point, it is not without a smile that, while I now read in some quarters that the conditions of relief, notably in respect of kitchen relief in the Central Provinces, have been relaxed to a dangerous and demoralising degree, I remember that, nine months ago, the Government of India were being assailed for the alleged stringency and harshness of the warnings that they had given in the Circular of December, 1899. Looking back upon our entire experience, I have now no hesitation in saying that our warning note was well timed and was wisely issued. Our enquiry was followed by a very salutary re-organisation of relief works in the Central Provinces and elsewhere, by large additions in all Provinces to the superior famine staff, and by considerable improvements in the supervision and conduct of relief measures. One of its results was the exposure of inadequacy of the superior staff, and of the dangers which were certain to ensue if this were not rectified. It was in consequence of this discovery that we offered the substantial help in respect of Staff Corps Officers, Medical Officers, Officers drafted from the Postal, Salt, and Police Departments, and Engineers, of which I have already spoken.

I should like to add that, in my opinion, there was no inconsistency between the position taken up by the Government of India in the first months of the famine, and their subsequent attitude in permitting a vast expansion of gratuitous relief during the rains in the Central Provinces, and in counselling the Government of Bombay to relax the conditions of relief in Guzarat, when cholera had disorganised the large works. Conditions are radically different at the beginning and at the height of a famine; and a degree of firmness at the outset is essential, which would, at a later stage, be altogether out of place. If this be borne in mind, our policy will, on examination, prove to have been consistent throughout. On the one hand, we have set our face against indiscriminate and pauperising charity, and have endeavoured to insist on relief being administered with the care and method which we owe to the taxpayer and to the exchequer. On the other hand, we have been prepared to accept any expenditure of which it could be shown that it was required to save life or to mitigate genuine distress. The only intelligent and the only possible policy is based on these two principles. There is no contradiction between them. No famine has ever been, or ever will be, successfully administered that does not exhibit, according to the point from which it is scrutinised, the opposite characteristics of strictness and leniency, or that is not open to the charge—if charges are to be brought—of being at different moments profuse and grudging.

Nevertheless we may still be asked whether we are quite satisfied that the abnormal mortality in Guzarat, the widespread misery described by competent observers, and the temporary breakdown of the relief machinery in that part were not due to any fault in our initial instructions. That the mortality was very great cannot be denied. In Broach the monthly death-rate rose from 2·96 per mille in October, 1899, to 24·83 in May, 1900. In the Panch Mahals the death-rate for the same month of May was 46·60 per mille; in Kaira 21·07; in Ahmedabad 24. These rates include deaths from cholera, a most virulent wave of which swept over Guzarat in April; although it is impossible to distinguish accurately between the mortality for which cholera was directly responsible, and that which was due to other diseases, to debility, to privations,

and to the temporary disorganisation of the camps. I have seen the report of a special enquiry which has just been conducted into the Guzarat mortality by the Sanitary Commissioner to the Bombay Government. He specifies no fewer than eight causes for the excessive death-rate in that district. They were, insufficient and unwholesome food; resort to Rangoon rice and other unaccustomed grains; bad cooking and bad water; the physical softness of a people who had never previously experienced famine; the unwillingness of certain classes, such as the Bhils and herdsmen, to apply for relief; and the vagabond instincts of large sections of the population. Some of these causes were preventible or reducible; the majority were not. If a perfect relief system is anywhere attainable, it is obvious that it is more likely to be realised in a district where the people are already acquainted with the principles of relief, and where they feel no natural reluctance to avail themselves of it. Neither of those conditions was present in Guzarat. The rapidity and completeness of the calamity took the people by surprise; the weakness and incapacity for resistance of the people took the Local Government by surprise. Had there been greater previous experience in either respect, the results might have been modified. The failure was certainly not due to any antecedent orders on the part of Government, or to any parsimony in the scheme of relief. On the contrary, the actual cost of relief per head in Bombay exceeded the cost-rate in other parts of India. While, therefore, I feel that the excessive mortality in Guzerat is a phenomenon of which it is difficult to give a full explanation, and which may still call for further enquiry, I think that a good deal of weight should be attached, in a comparison, for instance, between Guzarat and the Central Provinces, to the different temperaments of the afflicted populations, and to their relative familiarity or unfamiliarity with relief methods.

If we examine the death-rate elsewhere, we shall find that, in the Central Provinces, it remained satisfactorily low until the concluding months of the famine. Excluding epidemic disease, the provincial rate for April was only 3·25 per mille, and for May 3·42 per mille. These were the worst months in Guzarat. In June the rate (excluding cholera and small-pox, which carried off 23,000 persons) rose to 4 per mille, and in some parts was higher. In July it rose to 5·35 per mille, while some districts showed a local rate of from 7 to 10 per mille. In August the death rate in one district rose to no less than 15·21 per mille. It is a curious fact, however, that this high mortality was not accompanied by any exterior evidence of starvation or even of emaciation. The people, in fact, did not die of want of food, but from the sudden change in climatic conditions which occurs during and after the rains.

In the Punjab the mortality statistics exhibit much the same features as in the Central Provinces, though in a slightly less degree. In Hissar, where the death-rate has been highest, it has never exceeded 8 per mille, excluding cholera. The result of my examination has been to show that relief has been fully and sufficiently given in the Punjab, and that there has been no mortality from starvation, or even from direct privation, save in the case of wanderers from Native States, who arrived in too debilitated a condition to be saved.

In Berar the death-rate has been generally moderate, except in two districts adjoining the Nizam's dominions, where there was much pauper emigration across the border. In the last weeks of the hot weather the mortality rose everywhere, especially in those two districts; but no one has been found to suggest that it was due to any deficiency of relief.

I do not speak of the mortality in the Native States, which has in many cases been shocking, because the Government of India cannot be held responsible for a system which it does not control, and because my sole desire has been, while stating the best, and admitting the worst, that can be said about our own methods, to ascertain how far the latter have justified themselves, or are capable of amendment. Broadly speaking, it may be said that no endeavours which it is in the power of the most philanthropic or generous of Governments to put forward will avail to prevent an increase of mortality during a severe famine. No relief system in the world will counteract the effects of reduced food supply, cessation of wages, high prices and break up of homes, among millions

of people, or will prevent famine from being attended by its twin sister, pestilence.

When, however, I read the records of earlier famines, and compare their results with this, I do feel some cause for satisfaction. We are sometimes told of the wonderful things that happened in India before the days of British rule, and are invited, in most unhistorical fashion, to regard it as a Saturnian age. I have looked up the statistics of the last great famine that occurred in Bengal, while that province was still under native administration. This was in the year 1770. I speak of local administration, because, although the Diwani of Bengal had been assumed by the Company a few years before, the latter had not yet taken over the civil administration, which remained in the hands of the former native officers of the Delhi Government. Throughout the summer of that year it is on record that the husbandmen sold their cattle; they sold their implements of agriculture; they sold their sons and daughters, till at length no buyer of children could be found; they ate the leaves of trees and the grass of the field; and, when the height of the summer was reached, the living were feeding on the dead. The streets of the cities were blocked up with promiscuous heaps of the dead and dying; even the dogs and jackals could not accomplish their revolting work. Disease attacked the starving and shelterless survivors, and swept them off by hundreds of thousands. Before the end of May, 1770, one-third of the population was officially calculated to have disappeared; in June the deaths were returned as 6 is to 16 of the whole inhabitants: and it was estimated that one-half of the cultivators must perish. Two years later Warren Hastings, who had assumed the Government of Bengal on behalf of the British Power, stated the entire loss as at least one-third of the inhabitants, and subsequent calculations revealed that the failure of this single crop, in the single province of Bengal, had carried off within nine months no fewer than ten out of less than thirty millions of human beings.

After this appalling record of what famine meant in India a century ago, it was almost with a sense of relief that I read the other day in a manifesto issued by an English M.P. to his constituents, whom I may observe, in passing, that he no longer represents, that "Lord George Hamilton and Lord Curzon have looked helplessly on, while two millions of human beings have perished of starvation and disease in India." Had this statement been true, however damaging to the Secretary of State or to myself, it would yet have pointed an extraordinary contrast between the methods and results of 1900 and those of the eighteenth century. But that it is not true is known to every intelligent person in England and in this country. Every man, woman, and child who has perished in India in the present famine has been a burden upon my heart and upon that of Government. Their sufferings have never been absent from our thoughts. It cannot truthfully be said, even by the most envenomed of opponents, that we have looked helplessly on. On the contrary, I fearlessly claim, and I challenge contradiction, that there has never been a famine when the general mortality has been less, when the distress has been more amply or swiftly relieved, or when Government and its officers have given themselves with a more whole-hearted devotion to the saving of life and the service of the people.

What the actual mortality may have been it is impossible to tell with complete accuracy. At a later date the forthcoming census will throw useful light upon the problem. At the same time, from a comparison of the normal death-rate of the famine-stricken districts in British India, with which alone, of course, I am competent to deal, with the death-rate throughout the twelve months' duration of the drought, we can ascertain that there has been an excess mortality of 750,000, or $\frac{3}{4}$ million persons. But out of this total we also know that cholera and small-pox have accounted for a recorded mortality of 230,000, figures which are admitted to be below the mark. Making this deduction, therefore, we arrive at an excess mortality of half a million in British India, more or less attributable to the famine conditions of the year. To say that the greater part of these have died of starvation, or even of destitution, would be an unjustifiable exaggeration;

since we know that many other contributary causes have been at work, while the figures include the deaths of immigrants from Native States, for which our administration cannot be held responsible. When further it is remembered that this total is not more than 2 per cent. of the entire population in the tracts to which it applies, it will be obvious that no very remarkable depopulation has occurred, and it will be recognized that it is with ample justification that I give the assurance that in the entire history of Indian famines, while none has been more intense, in none have the deaths been so few.

So far my remarks have been confined almost exclusively to what has been done in the recent famine in British India. I must add a few words about the Native States, many of which have been affected in a scarcely inferior degree to our own territories. As I indicated a year ago, while we have sedulously refrained from assuming the direct responsibility for famine relief in those areas, and have shrunk from any unsolicited interference with Native administration, we have yet, in the discharge of our duty as the Paramount Power, and in the interest of the States themselves, tendered them constant advice, have lent them competent officers, have made them liberal loans, and have supplied co-ordination and system to their methods of relief. On the whole, we may congratulate ourselves upon the success that has attended these efforts. In a few States the duty of succouring their subjects has been so neglected by the Durbars as to need strong interference ; and in others the good intentions of rulers have been frustrated by the dishonesty and peculation of subordinate officials, who could not resist turning even the starvation of their fellow creatures to their own profit. But in the majority of cases the Chiefs have shown a most laudable disposition to accept our methods of relief, in so far as their resources and the agency at their command permitted. In some of the Rajputana States, especially in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikanir and Kishengarh, the arrangements have been admirably planned and carried out by the rulers themselves, and have aroused the admiration of persons familar with the famine system of British provinces. Surveying the Native States as a whole, we may say that there has been an awakening to the call of philanthropic duty, which has been most gratifying.

Nevertheless, the difference of the standards in vogue may be judged from a comparison of the figures on relief in the two areas. In Bikanir and Jodhpur for instance, the numbers relieved in any month never exceeded 6 per cent. of the nominal population, while in the British districts of Ajmer-Merwara, 25 per cent of the population were for months on relief. Even in the States under the Bombay Government, in which for various reasons the initiative and supervision of the Political Officers were more in evidence than in Central India and Rajputana, the scale of relief was very different from that in Guzarat. In Kathiawar, the numbers on relief never exceeded 13 per cent. of the population. In Palanpur they reached, but did not exceed, 15 per cent. in one month alone. In the same month (July, 1900), one-third of the aggregate population of the four distressed districts of Guzarat was on relief. The two great States of Baroda and Hyderabad flank the Bombay territory on the north and east. In Hyderabad and Baroda the numbers on relief never rose to 5 per cent. of the nominal population ; and yet both States were visited by drought and famine not less severely than the adjoining districts of the Bombay Presidency. Meanwhile, the difference in the standards of relief was further testified by the eagerness with which thousands of fugitives streamed across the border from Native States into British territory, where they passed themselves off as British subjects, in the hope of enjoying the superior wages and comforts of our relief-works, our poor-houses, and our hospitals.

I do not dwell on this point in order to disparage the efforts, in many cases most praiseworthy, made by Native States to relieve their people ; but simply because the difference between the standard of relief at which we have by degrees arrived, and the standard of relief recognised as liberal in the best managed Native State, is one of the elementary facts of famine experience. We may gladly admit that more has been done for their people by the Chiefs and rulers of Rajputana on this occasion than in any other historic famine.

There are many bright examples of benevolence and humanity. The Maharaja of Jaipur has extended his princely munificence not only to his own people, but to India at large. There is the instance of the late Maharaja of Kishengarh, who, though suffering from a mortal illness, took the keenest interest in the relief arrangements of his State, and never once alluded to his own ill-health. There is also the case of the wife of Maharaja Pertab Singh of Jodhpur, who, not content with opening an orphanage, resided there herself in order to superintend it. These instances—and their number might easily be increased—show the spirit with which the famine has been faced in Rajputana by some, at least, of its rulers. As for the people, they have borne their trials, as the Indian people always do, with exemplary fortitude and resignation.

I now pass to the subject of the charitable help which has been rendered to us in our long struggle, from so many quarters, in so many parts of the world. An impression appears to prevail that on the present occasion this assistance has been scant and disappointing. I do not share these views. Looking to the circumstances under which our appeal has been made, and even accepting the test of comparison with the Famine of 1896-97, I still hold that the amount contributed has been munificent, while its utility can scarcely be overrated. In 1896-97 the total collections amounted to 170 lakhs, of which 10 lakhs remained over at the beginning of the recent famine ; in the present year, the Central Relief Committee has received a sum of close upon 140 lakhs, or not far short of one million sterling.

Analysing the subscriptions I find that India has contributed about the same amount to the Fund as in 1896-97, that is to say, about 32 lakhs. If the contributions from the European community are deducted, India may be considered to have contributed, at the outside, less than one-fifth of the total collections of 140 lakhs. More might have been expected from the Native community as a whole, notwithstanding individual examples of remarkable generosity. The little Colony of the Straits Settlements, for instance, which has no connection with India beyond that of sentiment, has given more than the whole of the Punjab. A careful observation of the figures and proceedings in each province compels me to say that, in my opinion, Native India has not yet reached as high a standard of practical philanthropy or charity as might reasonably be expected. Though private wealth in India is not widely distributed, its total volume is considerable. If Englishmen in all parts of the world can be found, as they have been found, twice in three years, willing to contribute enormous sums for the relief of India, on the sole ground that its people are the suffering fellow-subjects of the same Queen, it surely behoves the more affluent of the Native community not to lag behind in the succour of those who are of their own race and creed.

The collections from abroad have amounted to 108 lakhs, as against 137 lakhs in 1896-97. The United Kingdom's contribution of 88½ lakhs compares indifferently with its contribution of 123 lakhs in 1896–97, but in the circumstances of the year it is a noble gift. The City of Glasgow has been especially generous, with a donation of 8¼ lakhs, and Liverpool with 4½, in addition to nearly 16 lakhs from the rest of Lancashire. Australasia has given nearly eight lakhs in place of the two lakhs sent in 1896–97. The Straits Settlements, Ceylon, and Hong Kong, have also been extremely generous. Even Chinese native officials have collected handsome sums on behalf of the fund. The liberal donation of Germany at the instigation of the Emperor has already been publicly acknowledged. Finally, the United States of America, both through direct contributions to the fund, and by means of privately distributed gifts of money and grain, have once more shown their vivid sympathy with England's mission and with India's need.

I pass to the mode in which the Famine Fund has been distributed. The formation of the fund was accompanied by two announcements ; the one, that in the distribution of the money the four objects of relief recognised in 1896–97 would be adhered to : the other, that the claims of the Native States would be fully considered. These principles have been faithfully adhered to by the Central Committee. Until the detailed expenditure accounts of the Local Committees are received, we cannot accurately state the distribution under the

several headings. But we know approximately that of 137 lakhs allotted by the Central Committee, 111 lakhs have been for cattle and seed and subsistence to cultivators. The allotments to Native States aggregate nearly 50 lakhs of rupees. The allotments to Rajputana alone amount to 22 lakhs. Measured by the population of the distressed areas, Rajputana has thus been not less generously treated than the Central Provinces. In the case of wealthy States like Gwalior, Hyderabad and Baroda, the Central Committee have restricted their grants to such amounts as the Political Officers have thought it expedient to ask for. Speaking generally, the grants made in Native territory have far exceeded the expectations of the rulers or their subjects. The gratitude of the latter has been expressed in homely and touching phrase. "If the English had not sent us this money, the thread of our lives would have been broken." "These are not rupees which have come over the sea, they are the water of life." "We have heard of the generosity of Hatim Bai, but we have tasted that of the Great Queen." How timely was the arrival of this charity, and how much it meant is seen in scores of affecting incidents. "Now I have got through to the other side," said a poor cultivator, with tears in his eyes, to the English officer who had given him a few rupees to buy fodder for his famished bullocks. There is ample evidence that this gratitude is of an enduring nature. Some of the happiest memories of famine-officers are those of unexpected visits from men who had been helped back to their old life by grants of seed and bullocks, and who returned after many days to again acknowledge the value of the gift. Nor should the self-respect which in not a few cases stood between a needy person and the proferred gift, or the scrupulous regard which led to its return because it might be misapplied, be overlooked. From Rajputana comes an old world tale of a Rajput Chief, dwelling in his bare house among his destitute tenants, who distributed among the latter the grant alloted to his village, but refused any gift for himself—"I am a Rahtor. I could not take charity"—and who with difficulty was induced to take a small loan. From Rajputana also comes the story of the man who was given a little money to convey his family and himself to a relief-work because he said that he had no means of feeding them on the way, but who came back and returned the gift because, as he said, he had not spoken the truth, since he had five goats which he could kill, one each day, eating part of the flesh, and selling the remainder. It is these incidents which lead one to hope that this great national charity has not been misplaced, but has been received in the spirit in which it has been offered.

In a famine campaign which has lasted for so long, and has provided so many opportunities for chivalry and self-sacrifice, it would not be difficult, but it might be invidious, to select any names for special mention. Numerous cases of devotion, amounting to the loftiest heroism, have been brought under my notice. I have heard of Englishmen dying at their posts without a murmur. I have seen cases where the entire organisation of a vast area and the lives of thousands of beings, rested upon the shoulders of a single individual, labouring on in silence and solitude, while his bodily strength was fast ebbing away. I have known of Natives, who, inspired by this example, have thrown themselves with equal ardour into the struggle, and have uncomplainingly laid down their lives for their countrymen. Particularly must I mention the noble efforts of the missionary agencies of various Christian denominations. If ever there was an occasion in which their local knowledge and influence were likely to be of value, and in which it was open to them to vindicate the highest standards of their beneficent calling, it was here; and strenuously and faithfully have they performed the task.

From this record of the past I will now turn for a few moments to the future. After the sombre picture that I have been compelled to draw, it is with no small relief that we may contemplate the existing situation and outlook. The monsoon was late in coming, but it has lingered long; and, except in the Eastern parts of the Bombay Dekkan, where I hear of crops withering from the premature cessation of the rains, of a poor *kharif*, and of anxious prospects, the outlook is everywhere promising. The early autumn crops are already being harvested, and prices are steadily falling back to their accustomed level. A good cotton crop is on the ground, and, as the cotton crop of India is worth thirteen millions sterling in an average year, its importance to the agriculturist

will be readily understood. Preparations for the winter crops are being actively made, and there is every expectation that the sowings in many parts will be unusually large, and will be made in the most favourable circumstances. A good winter harvest means cash to the farmer, as a good autumn harvest means cheap and abundant food to the poorest classes. If we have the good fortune to see our anticipations realised, next year should witness the export trade in agricultural produce again revive, and the import trade expand with the improvement in the purchasing power of the people.

That the famine-smitten tracts will at once, or speedily, lose the marks of the ordeal through which they have passed is not to be expected. The rapidity of the recovery will depend upon many circumstances—upon the vitality and stout-heartedness of the tillers of the soil, upon the degree of their indebtedness, upon the goodness or badness of the next few seasons, upon the extent to which their cattle have perished, and, not least, upon the liberality, in respect of revenue remission, of the Government. As regards the loss of stock, our latest reports are more encouraging than at one time we could have foreseen, and justify us in the belief that, if the seasons be propitious, recuperation will be more rapid than might at first sight be deemed likely. In olden times, after a famine such as we have experienced, the districts would have been depopulated, and the land would have lain waste for a generation for lack of hands to till it. There may be isolated tracts in the jungles and mountain fastnesses of Central India and Rajputana, where the approaching census will reveal a melancholy decrease of population. But, treating India as a whole, neither in native states nor in British territory is the widespread and lasting desolation which followed the footsteps of a famine a hundred ago any longer within the bounds of possibility. The standard of humanity has risen with the means of combating the peril ; and, in proportion as the struggle has been arduous, so are its after-effects mitigated.

I have alluded to the attitude of Government. In so far as generosity in respect of advances of loans, of suspensions, and, most of all, of remissions, is concerned, the figures that I have previously given will have shown that on our part there has been no hanging back. Our first object has hitherto been to pull the sufferers through. Our first object now is to start them again with reasonable chances in the world. Behind these two objects lies the further and binding duty of profiting by the lessons that the famine has taught. It will not do for us to sit still until the next famine comes, and then bewail the mysteries of Providence. A famine is a natural visitation in its origin ; but it is, or should be, a very business-like proceeding when once it has started. There are many subjects into which we shall require to make careful enquiry, and an investigation into which we have already suggested to the Secretary of State. We shall want to compare the various relief-systems and their results as practised in the different provinces ; to see in what respect our codes are faulty, where they are too rigid, and where they are too lax ; to still further investigate the vexed question of large works as against small works, and of relief-concentration as against relief-dispersion. We shall have to examine the rival merits of relief-establishments, and of unconditional gratuitous relief when the rains break. We must consider how far sudden and excessive mortality is to be explained or prevented. We must ascertain the best means of bringing home relief, in the form of revenue remissions and suspensions, with the greatest promptitude and directness to the people. We must investigate and report upon the various public works that have been undertaken in the course of the recent famine, and must provide for the execution of a continuous programme of preventive works in the future.

In this connection I would remind my hearers that the last Famine Commission in their report devoted much attention to the matter. Unfortunately, the recent famine came upon us before their recommendations had had time to bear fruit ; and in the rush and hurry of the overwhelming calamity of the past year, works had often to be improvised, so to speak, in a moment, to meet the demands of a particular area, whether the work was or was not likely to be of permanent value. Against this danger we shall require to guard by insisting upon the methodical preparation of district programmes, and upon the formation

of provincial branches, to be charged with this special duty. Railway earthwork has been pretty well exhausted for the present. More roads exist than can be properly kept up. But there are few parts of the country where works for the storage of water are not practicable. They may not, probably will not, be directly remunerative. But if such a work will conduce to greater security of the crops, and if it can be maintained at a moderate cost, it is just the sort of work which should be taken up or kept in hand for an emergency. No direct programme of relief should be considered complete until every possible irrigation or water storage scheme in the district has been examined, until a definite opinion has been come to as to its practicability and utility, and until detailed plans and estimates have been prepared for every accepted scheme. Such works will not fall within the category of the vast productive irrigation-projects such as have been executed in many parts of India. These are only possible amid certain physical surroundings, in the alluvial plains of the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, in the deltaic tracts of Madras and Sind, and within the dry zone of Burma. All the possible schemes of this character are well known, and are gradually being undertaken. Tank storage again is not everywhere practicable. It is often found impossible to construct new tanks without injuring those already in existence; there is risk of water-logging the soil; and the water-supply is apt to fail altogether and to run dry at the very moment when it is most wanted, namely, in time of famine. Nor are the average results of works of this description that have already been carried out very favourable. It is possible to reclaim land for cultivation at a cost that is too heavy. On the other hand it would seem that the underground storage of water might be more widely and systematically undertaken, and that a more generous policy might be adopted towards the construction of wells. All these are matters which we should investigate and set on foot before the next famine comes. The annual rainfall of India we can neither regulate or forecast. The social habits of the people we cannot alter in a decade, or in a generation. But, if we can neither prevent nor cure, at least we can do a good deal by way of precaution.

There is one recommendation that was made by the last Famine Commission which should, I think, be of value to us in our policy of preparation, inasmuch as it has since received the sanction of the Secretary of State. This was the proposal that the cost of investigating and preparing new projects falling into the class of protective works should form a charge against the annual Famine Grant. Hitherto such preliminary outlay has been chargeable to the ordinary Public Works head of the Provincial Budget, and this has no doubt deterred the Provincial Governments in the past from expending money in investigating projects for canals and irrigation reservoirs, which might prove, on examination, to be impracticable, and which, even if practicable, would have to stand over indefinitely until required for purposes of famine-relief. There are other respects in which I think that the Famine Grant might be turned to better account in carrying out its original object than is at present the case; but I have not time to deal with them now.

I must apologise to Council for having detained them so long. But a famine such as we have lately experienced is not an every day or an every year occurrence. It cannot be met with a sigh, or dismissed with a shudder. It is a terrible incident, an abiding landmark, in the history of the Indian people. As such, its management and its study impose a heavy responsibility upon those of us who are charged with the government of this great dependency. It is with the object of demonstrating to the Indian public that in the administration of the recent famine we have not been unworthy of our trust, and that this year of strain and suffering will not have passed by without our profiting by its lessons, that I have made this speech.

No. 172.

EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENT made by the Honourable Sir E. FG. Law, K.C.M.G., in the Governor-General's Legislative Council held at Calcutta on 20th March, 1901.

During the past financial year this great Indian Empire has been suffering from an appalling calamity, quite unprecedented, I think, in the recent history of any country on the globe's surface. Not only have we been the victims of a famine of extraordinary severity, the inevitable outcome of the early cessation of the rains in the year 1899, but to the consternation of all men, responsible for, or interested in, the welfare of the millions of agricultural population, the coming of the periodical rains, required to refresh the thirsty soil and restore the fecundity of mother-earth, was so delayed last season, that the trials of the long suffering populations were prolonged in the most distressing and unexpected manner. But this was not all. In addition to the calamity of famine, the plague pestilence is still with us, and the terrible list of its victims is daily to be counted in the official returns from the plague-stricken districts. And this too weighs heavily on the resources of the country.

The Government of India has followed with the keenest anxiety the course and results of these awful afflictions, so entirely beyond its control, and it has recognised with profound admiration the splendid spirit with which millions of sufferers have faced the calamities from which they were powerless to escape.

The suffering condition of our fellow-subjects has been brought home to us, in the most incisive manner, through the continued and heart-rending appeals for assistance which have reached the Government of India. It is however my duty, and a happy duty, to state that, under the instructions of the Secretary of State and the Government of India, all such appeals have been considered by the Departments concerned, in a most liberal spirit, and no single appeal examined in that spirit by the competent authorities, has remained unsatisfied. The national purse and national credit have been freely placed at the disposal of all whose genuine distress might, it was hoped, be relieved by the prompt expenditure of money.

Such has been the spirit guiding our action, and it now falls to my duty to state the cost of our gigantic undertaking.

To count it with any approximation to accuracy is impossible, for it is not the direct expenditure of money which alone is involved: there has been an expenditure of life, health and energy of the numerous Government servants, both European and Native, who have nobly done their duty in facing the storm: in addition to the direct cost, of gratuitous famine relief and relief works, of remissions of taxation, of agricultural loans, of loans to assist afflicted Native States, of provision of medical assistance, and of special payments to famine officers, there has also been the indirect cost of loss of revenue, both as regards land revenue and miscellaneous taxes, and the incalculable, but probably still greater future cost of checked economic development.

We can fairly count the direct cost; the indirect cost must necessarily escape accurate calculation.

The following are the principal items of direct loss and expenditure :—

——	Rs.
Famine relief...	6,33,76,000
Remissions and Suspensions of Land Revenue and Provincial Rates ...	1,47,16,000
Compensation for dearness of provisions and other charges	66,03,000
Total	8,46,95,000

In addition to the above, we have provided :—

——	Rs.
Loans to Native States	4,11,00,000
Special Agricultural Advances	1,42,00,000
Total	5,53,00,000

This is an appalling total, but the calamity was also appalling. And the tale is not yet told. Expenditure will continue in the coming year. Already we have been called upon to provide approximately a crore for direct famine expenditure in the coming year, chiefly in Bombay, and we have been obliged to allot 164½ lakhs as grants-in-aid to Provincial Revenues, to restore financial equilibrium, thrown out of balance by famine and plague requirements.

It has been a serious and responsible task to meet all these heavy demands, but, thanks to the recuperative power of the country, directly due to the frugal habits and industry of the people, the task has been accomplished, and the Government of India can say with no inconsiderable satisfaction, that, with the aid of the ruled, the Rulers have done their duty, and the results have been such as to leave a memorable record in the history of mankind.

IV.

LABOUR SUPPLY AS AFFECTED BY FAMINE RELIEF.

No. 173.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. Donald Smeaton, Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 49, dated Calcutta, the 1st March, 1900.

I am requested by the Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter received from Messrs. Bird & Co., on the subject of Government and charitable relief, and its effect on the supply of labour.

Enclosure in No. 173.

Letter from Messrs. Bird & Co., to the Honourable Mr. D. Smeaton, C.S.I., No. 1542 B., dated Calcutta, the 28th February, 1900.

We have subscribed Rs. 3,000 to the Famine Fund, 1900, but we consider it very questionable whether this method of administering relief is wise. We are told that at Delhi it is impossible to obtain labour at ordinary rates, as the people prefer to be relieved gratuitously. During the whole of 1899 our jute mills here were short of labour, and such labour as we had was impudent and independent. The wages earned in mills here amount to Rs. 0–12–0 to Re. 1 daily. Our collieries also are chronically short of labour, and the above wages also obtain there. As large employers of unskilled labour on railways, it is our experience that wages are steadily rising and labour is becoming more and more scarce and difficult to procure.

2. Under these circumstances it appears to us that facilities and encouragement should be afforded to labour to *migrate* and seek for work in centres where labour is in demand, rather than to subscribe funds which are devoted to feed people gratuitously. We have heard it stated that the people who have come to know that relief can be obtained when they have no crops are becoming unwilling to go to the trouble of cultivating, but we cannot vouch for this statement.

No. 174.

Circular letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to (1) *The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Famine);* (2) *The Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab;* (3) *The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces;* (4) *The Resident, Hyderabad;* (5) *The Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No.* 474 *F., dated Calcutta, the* 10*th March*, 1900.

I am directed to forward { (1) and (2) for the consideration of (1) the Governor in Council, (2) His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor (3), (4), (5) for your consideration, } a copy of a communication concerning the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour supply of the country, which has been forwarded to the Government of India by the Honourary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, with his letter, No. 49, dated the 1st March, 1900.

2. I am to ask that, after careful inquiry from the railway authorities and from other local employers of labour, the Government of India may be informed whether there is any reason to believe that the relief works are interfering with the supply of labour, and whether anything has been or can be done to prevent this contingency, and to assist private employers of labour to obtain it on reasonable terms. At the same time I am to request that it may be ascertained whether the employers of unskilled labour have raised their wages in consequence of the enhanced prices now current.

No. 175.

Letter from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 1272-*F., dated Pachmarhi, the* 3*rd May*, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your Circular, No. 2—90—3, dated 10th March last, regarding the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour supply of the country. The Government of India expressed the desire that careful inquiry should be made from railway authorities and other local employers of labour as to whether the relief works have interfered with the supply of labour; and also whether employers of unskilled labour have raised their wages in consequence of the enhanced prices now current.

2. It seemed to the Officiating Chief Commissioner that this was a matter of considerable importance, as it involved, as pointed out by Messrs. Bird & Co., the wisdom of the authorised system of administering relief. He therefore directed that full inquiry should be made in every division in the Province. And, in reference to your reminder, No. 782 F., dated 21st ultimo, I am to say that the cause of delay in furnishing a reply to your reference was that local replies had not been received. The last reached the Officiating Chief Commissioner only yesterday. The matter is one to which Mr. Fraser's attention was early directed; but he considered it necessary to have definite information from every part of the Province before replying to your letter. For, if any part had been omitted, the impeachment against the system of famine administration would not have been fully met. I am now to proceed to lay before the Government of India, for each division in the Province, the information which has been received.

3. In the Jubbulpore Division inquiries were made from the managers of the extensive lime works at Merwara and the district engineers of the Great Indian Peninsula and East-Indian Railways. All these employers of labour have stated that they have had no difficulty in obtaining labour in any quantity,

and that they have not had to raise the rate of wages. The district engineer of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, however, adds that "the lower paid work-people, who are in receipt of wages from the Company direct and do work departmentally, have a grain compensation allowance which varies as the prices of food-grains fluctuate within certain limits." This is, of course, equivalent to a rise in wages. At the same time, he says, that "the rates paid to petty contractors are the same as have been in force for many years past, and have not been raised." No report was received from the Indian Midland Railway. But the relief works in its neighbourhood in the Jubbulpore Division were very few and admission was limited and controlled by tickets. So there can have been no competition with the employers of private labour.

4. In the Nerbudda Division the district engineer of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway replies in precisely the same terms as have been above quoted regarding work in the Jubbulpore Division. The reply to the reference made to the authorities of the Indian Midland Railway has not been received. But it need not be awaited, as the bulk of the work on the small portion (12 miles) of that railway which falls within the Hoshangabad District is being carried out by famine labour. The experience of all other private employers of labour appears to have been precisely similar, with one exception. The manager of the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company in October last, reported that his unskilled labourers were leaving the mines for the famine relief works, although the Company was paying considerably higher wages than those prevailing at the relief works. The Government of India will easily understand that labour in the mines is not popular with native labourers. At the same time the relief works were not opened to supply labourers to those for whom private employment was available. As soon, therefore, as the complaint was received, orders were issued that such persons were to be sent back from the works. This was done, and no complaints of the kind have since been received.

5. In the Nagpur Division inquiries were made from the district engineers of the Great Indian Peninsula and Bengal-Nagpur Railway, from the manager of the Empress Mills and from Rao Bahadur Rajaram Dixit, the most important contractor in the Division, as well as from small employers of labour. The district engineer of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway (Manmar) replied that he "had no difficulty in obtaining the usual labour anywhere along the Nagpur line. The Government relief works do not draw our men away; and the present rate of wages is not higher than normal." He added that all permanent labourers drawing less than Rs. 13 per mensem receive grain compensation; but "other men we employ on temporary jobs, such as earthwork, &c., we pay at the normal rate without grain compensation." The manager of the Empress Mills replied that "the relief works started in Nagpur have not at all interfered with the supply of labour, which we are, in these famine times, able to obtain somewhat cheaper than we used to do before. We used to pay three annas a day to an unskilled male labourer, while we pay him now two annas to two annas six pice a day." Rao Bahadur Rajaram Dixit and the other contractors consulted give similar evidence that they have experienced no difficulty in obtaining labour at normal rates.

6. The evidence of the District Engineer, Bengal-Nagpur Railway (Kamptee), is, however, to the opposite effect. He alone has any complaint to make. He writes: "It is undoubtedly a fact that unskilled labour has not only gone up in price, but it is most difficult to get. In ordinary years we can get as many coolies for pumping and gang work as we require without the slightest difficulty at a rate of Rs. 6 per month. In 1898 our gangmen were getting Rs. 5–8 to Rs. 6 per month, and pumpers Rs. 6. This year all gangmen get from Rs. 6–8 to Rs. 7, and pumpers Rs. 7 to Rs. 8. Further, such labour as can be obtained is most independent; and should fault be found, the labourer at once leaves the work. Coolies for temporary work are most difficult to get; and I have been paying contractors as much as five annas a day for daily labour against a rate of three and a half annas last year. I am led to believe, from my enquiries, that the present high rate of coolies and the difficulty in obtaining them is due to the famine relief works." This is an unfortunate experience, into which it has been impossible for the

Officiating Chief Commissioner to make more detailed inquiries. Mr. Fraser is aware that labour in Nagpur and Kamptee is very "independent"; that pumping work is hard and unpopular, and that there has been (owing to scarcity of water) more demand for pumping than usual. But he is unable to explain how the experience of the district engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur differs so completely from that of his neighbour in the same division on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. It may be due to the conditions of labour under the former being less attractive, perhaps because he does not give grain compensation allowance even to permanent labourers. It will be found that Chhattisgarh experience affords some explanations of this complaint.

7. In the Chhattisgarh Division inquiries were made from the engineer in charge of the Raipur-Dhamtari Railway, the District Engineer, Bengal-Nagpur Railway (Bilaspur), the Assistant Engineer on the same railway at Raipur, and Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co., of the cotton mills at Raj Nandgaon. All these employers of labour state that they have no complaint to make; that the famine relief works have not interfered with the supply of unskilled labour; and that it has not been found necessary to raise the wages of unskilled labour in consequence of the enhanced prices now current. Both the District Engineer and the Assistant Engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, however, in the course of their replies, make an allusion to pumping work, which is of interest in connection with the complaint of the district engineer on the same line at Kamptee. They say that they have no trouble in getting any labour they want "at the usual rates, with the exception of pumpers, whose work is particularly hard just now on account of the heavy traffic. So their wages have been raised." Perhaps, if the District Engineer at Kamptee had made equally intelligent inquiry about the labourers in his employment, he would have discovered the local and temporary causes for the unpopularity of certain work to be quite apart from the alleged competition of famine relief works.

8. The Officiating Chief Commissioner considers that the practically unanimous opinion of the private employers of labour throughout the Province that the famine relief works have not interfered with the supply of unskilled labour is very satisfactory. It is evidence of no small value that famine labour has not been made too attractive. In this matter, as the Government of India are aware, Mr. Fraser has made every effort to give effect to the views which he loyally shares with them. I am only to add that the authorities of all the Railways running through the Province have rendered cordial assistance to the Central Provinces Administration in giving work to famine labourers wherever possible. And they have also realised generally that the Administration has been always ready to help them in every way possible.

No. 176.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 2034-F., *dated Abu, the* 3*rd May*, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Circular No. 2—90—3, dated the 10th March, 1900, forwarding a copy of a communication concerning the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour supply of the country, and to inform you that I have consulted the Commissioner of Ajmer and the Superintending Engineer as regards the result of their experience.

2. At the beginning of the famine when relief operations were not so well organized as they are now and the issue of gratuitous relief especially was administered on an unnecessarily liberal scale, complaints were made by the railway authorities that some of their menial workers had been tempted to throw up their regular employment. Such complaints are now no longer heard. The Commissioner reports that the supply of labour is in no way interfered with by the Government relief works.

The Famine Commissioner during his tours made enquiries on this point from the owners and managers of cotton mills. Most of these were closed for the greater part of the cold weather, but in one instance the manager complained of the constant applications for employment he was unable to grant.

3. In Rajputana in its present stage of development there is a quite inconsiderable demand for industrial labour, so that the problem raised in Messrs. Bird & Co.'s communication is of little practical account. There is no industry in the province of such dimensions and importance as to be affected by famine relief operations in this way.

No. 177.

Letter from E. H. Blakesley, Esq., Secretary for Berar to the Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 193, *dated Hyderabad Residency, the 8th May,* 1900.

I am directed to refer to your circular letter No. 2—90–3, dated the 10th March, 1900, and to Mr. Tucker's subsequent letter, No. 784 F., dated the 21st April, 1900, regarding the effect of the State system of famine relief upon the labour supply of the country.

2. In reply I am to say that, so far as Berar is concerned, relief works are not interfering with the supply of labour, and that private employers of unskilled labour have not raised their wages.

No. 178.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 916-*P., dated Poona, the* 14*th June,* 1900.

I am now directed to reply to your circular letter, No. 2-90-3, dated 10th March last, on the subject of the effect of the State system of the famine relief on the labour supply of the country. The Agents of all railways open or under construction within the limits of the Bombay Presidency have been consulted, and such enquiries as are possible have been made with regard to the labour required by private employers.

2. In February last the Engineer-in-Charge of the Amalner-Jalgaon section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway reported that he could not obtain sufficient labour for some works he had in hand. But the Chief Engineer states that steady employment could not be given, and it was only natural that people on relief works should be disinclined to leave them for temporary employment. Moreover, the Collector was able, on being so directed, to arrange for the supply of all the labour required on the railway. It is now reported that the system of daily payments, which has been made general in the Panch Mahals, is drawing labourers away from the Anand-Godhra and Godhra-Rutlam branches of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway. These are the only instances in which there has been any allegation made to Government, or to officers of Government, that the system of State relief has interfered with the supply of labour. It is reported that people are employed by private individuals in Ahmedabad in drawing carts on smaller wages than can be earned on relief works, and that both in Gujarat and the Deccan private employment is preferred but at present the demand is very small.

3. On none of the railways have wages been increased on account of high prices, but on the main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway grain compensation is given to all classes of labourers; on the Southern Mahratta Railway it has been given only to the permanent staff. Throughout Gujarat the money wages given by private employers are said to be below the normal rates, and it is reported that in the Deccan districts lower wages are given by private employers than can be earned on relief works.

No. 179.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 971, *dated Simla, the 6th July,* 1900.

In reply to your letter No. 2—90—3, dated the 10th March, 1900, regarding the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour-supply of the country, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the letters noted in the margin, and to say that a reply from the Commissioner of Lahore, who has been consulted on the subject, will be submitted as soon as received.

1. From Commissioner, Delhi, No 256, dated 5th May, 1900.
2. From Commissioner, Jullundur, No. 2058, dated 14th May, 1900 (and enclosures).
3. From Commissioner, Ráwalpindi, No. 2321, dated 16th June, 1900 (and enclosures).
4. From Secretary to Government, Punjab, Irrigation Department, No. 0327 I., dated the 12th June, 1900.
5. From Manager, North Western Railway. No. 998 F., dated 19th June, 1900.
6. From Chief Engineer, Punjab, Public Works Department, No. 410 S., dated 21st June, 1900.
7. Extracts from Report on the working of the Dandot Colliery for the half-year ending 31st December, 1899.

2. It is clear from these papers that the relief measures undertaken in the Punjab have not so far interfered with the supply of ordinary labour, but have rather tended to increase the supply and to bring down wages, the latter tendency, however, being modified by the presence of relief works. Thus, in the annual report of the Dandot Colliery, labour is reported to have come in more freely than usual, but "the knowledge that they could get work on the famine relief works seemed to make the miners fairly independent of the Colliery," and this is also referred to in the letter of the Manager, North-Western Railway, which is among the enclosures of this letter. On the other hand, in the case of a test work in the vicinity of Khewra, when a change in the conditions of the work had made the piece-work rates too high, and they were reduced, a number of labourers immediately left for the salt mines.

Enclosure 1 in No. 179.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner and Superintendent, Delhi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 256, *dated the 5th May,* 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 481 of the 28th March, 1900, communicating the Government of India inquiry as to whether there is any reason to believe that our relief works are interfering with the supply of labour, and also whether the employers of unskilled labour have raised their wages in consequence of the enhanced prices now current.

2. The Deputy Commissioners of Delhi, Hissar, and Karnal have, at my request, made the necessary inquiries from the Railway and from contractors, and also from the Irrigation Department, and all the reports show that the relief works have not in any way affected the ordinary labour-supply, and that in no case has it been found necessary to raise the wages of unskilled labourers in consequence of the scarcity in order to keep them off of relief works.

Enclosure 2 in No. 179.

Letter from Alexander Anderson, Esq., C.I.E., Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 2058, dated the 14th May, 1900.

In reply to your endorsement No. 481, dated 28th March last, in which I was requested to have the inquiry suggested by the Government of India, as to the effect of the State system of famine relief upon the labour-supply of the country, made by selected Deputy Commissioners, from local employers of labour, I have the honour to forward a copy of the replies received from the Deputy Commissioners of Ludhiana and Ferozepore, the Engineer-in-Chief, Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal Railway, and the Superintendent, Maler Kotla State, who were consulted by me.

2. In this Division there have been no relief works properly so called, and it is therefore not possible to submit an opinion based on experience. There has been no increase in the rates of wages for ordinary unskilled labour arising from the enhanced prices. Many people have been thrown on the general labour market by the famine, and their competition for labour would naturally keep prices down.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Engineer-in-Chief, Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal Railway, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, No. 2335, dated the 7th April, 1900.

With reference to your endorsement No. 92/1476, dated 4th instant, I have the honour to inform you that there has been no dearth of labour on this Railway, and that as far as I can judge the wages of unskilled labour are no higher than in normal years. The earth-work (which is now practically completed) having been done by contract, I cannot state what the actual wages paid to the labourers have been, but judging from the rate at which we have been able to get it done (*i.e.*, Rs. 2–4–0 $^{0}/_{0}$ for bank up to 5 feet high in ordinary soft soil), I should be inclined to think that the wages have, if anything, ruled rather lower than usual in this district.

Annexure II.

Letter from T. Millar, Esquire, Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, No. 234, dated the 23rd April, 1900.

I have the honour to report, in reply to your Circular endorsement No. 92/1476 of the 4th instant, that from enquiries made I find that the system of famine relief has had no effect on the labour-supply in this district.

I herewith enclose a copy of Lala Kashi Ram, Honorary Secretary, Famine Relief Committee, Ferozepore City's letter on the subject.

Annexure III.

Letter from Lala Kashi Ram, Secretary, Famine Relief Fund Committee, Ferozepore, to the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore, dated the 19th April, 1900.

In compliance with your endorsement No. 844, dated the 10th instant, forwarding copy of the Government of India Circular No. 2—90–3, dated the 10th March, 1900, with copy of enclosure, I have the honour to report that I do not think that the high prices

have raised the wages of labour. During the last winter in my experience the wages have been lower than in the normal seasons. Earthwork, which used to be given at Re. 0-2-0 or Rs. 0-2-6 per 100 cubic feet were done at Re. 0-1-6, and daily wages fell to Re. 0-2-0 and Re. 0-2-6 instead of Re. 0-3-0 a day. On the approach of the crop season the wages have risen only very slightly, while in normal years in these days labour used to be scarce except for cutting the crops. At the ginning factories with which I am connected, the immigrants for famine could not be employed. The wages there have remained unaltered.

Annexure IV.

Letter from W. A. LeRossignol, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, No. 225, dated the 26th April, 1900.

With reference to your Circular endorsement No. 92 1476, dated 4th instant, and its enclosure, on the subject of effect of famine relief works on the labour-supply of the country, I have the honour to report that no famine relief works are in progress in this district, and private employers of labour have consequently no difficulty in obtaining it at the usual rates. The rates of wages have not increased in this district owing to high prices of grain.

Annexure V.

Letter from the Superintendent, Maler Kotla State, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, No. 229, dated the 29th April, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular endorsement No. 92/1476, dated the 4th instant, with its enclosures, asking my views on the effect of relief works upon the supply of labour.

2. In answer I beg to inform you that the relief works would not, in any way, interfere with the supply of labour. Even in large towns and cities, where there are large Railway stores and godowns, mills and manufactories, labour is in great demand on different rates, as such factories are always worked by special or professional labourers who know more of the work than any other stranger. Had famine-stricken people been employed in their place to carry out the same work, they would not prove themselves so useful, because they have no strength and acquaintance of that special work going on.

3. So far as I can conclude, these temporary labourers cannot well undertake the permanent works connected with a factory. To make them suitable for that work will require a little time to enable them to acquaint themselves with it. But on the other hand these new labourers can very satisfactorily work on ordinary relief works, such as roads or earthworks, digging of tanks, and the like. Consequently those who work on relief works are not permanent labourers, subsisting themselves on their regular labour only.

4. It is possible and true and can be affirmed by enquiry that rates of wages for labour in Municipal towns have however risen on account of the dearness of provisions, and an increase is sustained, say, of pies in smaller works and of annas in larger ones. I should therefore strongly recommend that in case when a famine is declared in any district, the Government may empower the local authorities of that district with some admitted principle to fix rates for all kinds of labour for that locality and to modify in them weekly or monthly according to fluctuations in prices of provisions. These rates should always be other than those of the Famine Code for relief works. This arrangement would, I think, facilitate the supply of labour and would first obtain suitable strong labourers for local factories of that district on the aforesaid rates. The rest of the labourers to be relieved by ordinary relief works on the rates contained in the Famine Code.

Enclosure 3 in No. 179.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. L. Montgomery, Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 2321—G. II.-25, dated the 16th June, 1901.

COPIES of the correspondence forwarded with your No. 481, dated 28th March, on the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour-supply, were sent by me to the Deputy Commissioners of Sialkot, Rawalpindi and

Gujranwala for opinion. No reply has as yet been received from Rawalpindi, but I proceed to give my opinion without further delay.

2. My experience is that famine relief has no effect on the supply of labour so far as unskilled labour goes. We had test works and famine relief works going on in several districts of the Division, but directly contract labour was opened in the Jhelum Canal the workers flocked to it and abandoned the famine works ; the reason being that they could earn more there than on the famine works. As a rule ordinary unskilled labour could be had in these parts at cheaper rates than usual, because the people were in great straits and were ready to accept almost any wages offered them.

3. I agree with the Deputy Commissioner of Gujranwala (Diwan Tek Chand) that in this part of the Punjab cultivation is never neglected for the famine camps. Whenever there has been any chance of sowing, the agriculturists have immediately gone off to cultivate their lands.

4. There is not much occasion for the employment of skilled labour here except in the Railway workshops and under officers of the Public Works Department ; and I have heard no complaints of any difficulty in getting labourers for such work. In short I should say that during these hard times there have been more applicants for both skilled and unskilled work than could be provided for, and the tendency has been towards lower rather than higher wages.

Annexure I.

Letter from Diwan Tek Chand, C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division, No. 133 *L.F., dated Gujranwala, 7th May,* 1900.

In compliance with your Circular endorsement No. 58/1411, dated 10th April, 1900, calling for opinion on a communication from Messrs. Bird and Co., of Calcutta to the Government of India, regarding the effect on the supply of labour, of the present system of famine relief, I have the honour to report that the Executive Committee of the Gujranwala Famine Charitable Relief Fund do not subscribe to the views of Messrs. Bird and Co.

2. No difficulty has yet been experienced in this district for the supply of unskilled labour. On the other hand it is a fact that private capitalists have been engaging labour on less than normal rates during the last six months or so.

3. The famine dole, especially when strict supervision is exercised in exacting task work, is not attractive enough for the able-bodied men of this part of the country, and if they can get better wages in private firms or on the railway it seems strange that they should refuse them unless the latter employment carries them far from their homes.

4. The accusation that people neglect cultivation simply to get gratuitous relief is, in my opinion, quite erroneous. As far as the Punjab is concerned, it is safe to say that the zamindárs go to the famine camps as a last resort, and leave them as soon as a shower of rain promises them a bushel of corn.

5. The proposal of *migrating* famine-labourers to the chief centres of labour at Government expense is also not without its difficulties. What is to be done if the labourers refuse to migrate ? Are they to die of starvation or is the State to save their lives ? Again, what guarantee is there that, in view of the increase in the supply of labourers, their employers would not reduce their wages, which with high prices prevailing in periods of scarcity would also ruin them ?

6. If the result of the present policy of famine relief is increase in wages, the result of the proposed policy would be a sure decrease in wages ; and of the two alternatives I prefer the former as in hard times it is the labourers who deserve consideration and not the capitalists.

Annexure II.

Letter from Captain C. M. Dallas, Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, to the Commissioner and Superintendent, Rawalpindi Division, No. 155, *dated* 11*th May*, 1900.

With reference to your No. $\frac{58}{1411}$, dated 10th April, 1900, I have the honour to say that there are no very large employers of labour in this district whose opinion I could get, nor have there been any famine relief works in this district. The few people who are fed gratuitously are the blind, the lame, and the halt or aged and infirm who could not work.

I do not, therefore, think that relief works or gratuitous relief have affected the supply of labour in or near this district. In fact I heard that in an adjoining district where relief works were in progress that as soon as work in one of the new canals was started the number of persons on relief works at once decreased considerably.

Enclosure 4 in No. 179.

Letter from Sidney Preston, Esquire, C.E., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 0327 I., dated Simla, 12th June, 1900.

I am directed to reply to your endorsement No. 481, dated 28th March, 1900, forwarding a letter No. 2—90-3, dated 10th March, 1900, from Secretary to Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture, concerning the effect of the State system of famine relief on the labour-supply of the country.

2. I have consulted some of the more experienced of the Irrigation Officers in the Province with the following results :—

(*a*) The Superintending Engineer, Jhelum Circle, says that practically no famine relief has been given in any district connected with the Jhelum and Swat River Canals, and hence of course there has been no interference with the labour market ; but that owing to the dearness of food stuffs and the failure of crops the price of labour has fallen considerably. The general result has been that labour has been plentiful and the rates lower than usual.

(*b*) The Superintending Engineer, Derajat Circle, states that the effect of famine relief on the local labour market has been inappreciable, and that the prevailing scarcity has tended rather to lower prices than to raise them.

(*c*) The Superintending Engineer, Sirhind Canal Circle, says that labour rates have not been raised in the Sirhind Canal tract in consequence of enhanced prices now current, and as no relief works have been opened in Ludhiana and Ferozepore Districts, no reply can be made as to the effect of such works on the labour supply.

(*d*) The Superintending Engineer, Western Jumna Canal Circle, states that the labour generally has been paid at lower rates than before the famine relief works were started, except in the Delhi District, where the rates have not been affected, and in the Karnal District, where the relief works have slightly reduced the supply of labour, but nowhere else.

3. In the Chenab Canal Circle labour has been plentiful and quite ready to accept reasonable rates. The colonists found that they were able to get the harvest done at the same rates as prevail in the villages from whence they came, whereas in the past few years they have had to make special concessions to obtain labour to cut the crops quickly. This lowering of the cost of labour in the colony is not entirely due to famine, but in some measure to the steady influx of population to the colony ; the famine has, however, accelerated the reduction of the cost of labour, because large numbers of people have been driven to the colony.

4. It will, therefore, be seen that the famine relief works have not, as far as the Irrigation Branch is concerned, interfered with the supply of labour ; nor have the wages to unskilled labour been raised in consequence of enhanced prices.

The people in the canal irrigated tracts have not suffered in the same way as those outside such tracts, and the scarcity has been such as to cause a keener competition for such work as the canal works could provide, with the result that labour has been plentiful and ready to accept reasonable rates of wages.

Enclosure 5 in No. 179.

Letter from the Manager, North-Western Railway, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 998-F., dated Lahore, the 19th June, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement, No. 481, dated the 28th March, 1900, and subsequent reminder No. 786, dated the 29th May, 1900, calling for a report on the effect of the State system of famine relief works on the supply of country labour.

2. In reply, I have the honour to state that from enquiries made I find (1) that there is no reason to believe that the famine relief works are interfering with the supply of labour to railway works, and (2) that we have not had to raise the rates of wages for securing labour.

3. As an only exception to the above, the Mining Manager, Dandot Colliery, has complained that he has experienced some difficulty in retaining labour owing to works on the Jalapur Canal having been opened. This difficulty having been referred to the local Civil Authorities, an assurance was received from them that prefessional labour would be strictly excluded from their relief works.

Enclosure 6 in No. 179.

Letter from Colonel S. L. Jacob, C.I.E., R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Punjab, Buildings and Roads Branch, to the Revenue and Financial Secretary to Government, No. 410-S., dated Simla, the 21st June, 1900.

With reference to your No. 481, dated the 28th March, 1900, I have the honour to forward for information copy of a letter No. 1808, dated the 13th June, 1900, from the Superintending Engineer, Special Famine Circle, and its enclosure, intimating that the State system of famine relief has had no effect on the labour supply of the country, and to state that the reports from other Circle Officers are practically to the same effect.

2. In my opinion the effect of famine in this respect has been just the reverse of what was expected. Ordinary work could be carried out at rates impossible in non-famine years. I came across instances of ballast collection and earthwork being done in the Province at far lower rates than they have ever been done of late years.

Annexure I.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, Special Famine Circle, to the Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department, No. 1808-F., dated the 13th June, 1900.

With reference to Secretary to Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. 474 F.—90—3, dated 10th March, 1900, received with your endorsement No. 3879, dated 26th April, 1900, regarding effect of the State system of famine relief upon the labour-supply of the country, I have the honour to state as follows :—

2. The Executive Engineers in charge of relief works in the five districts attached to this circle have been consulted ; they are all of opinion that the State system of famine relief has had no effect on the labour-supply of the country within their cognisance. Famine relief works have not drawn away labourers from ordinary works. Professional workers would not stay on relief work if they can find any employment on ordinary works. On relief works local or village unskilled labour is mostly employed ; such labour is not willing to emigrate to seek employment elsewhere.

3. Regarding the allusion to scarcity of the supply of labour in Delhi made by Messrs. Bird & Co. in their letter No. 1542 B., dated the 28th February, 1900, a copy of Executive

Engineer, Delhi Division's letter, No. 589, dated the 25th May, 1900, is attached for information.

4. My knowledge and experience of this subject quite agrees with what Executive Officers have stated.

Annexure II.

Letter from H. Phillips, Esquire, A.M.I., C.E., Executive Engineer, Delhi, to the Superintending Engineer, Special Famine Circle. No. 589 dated the 25th May, 1900.

With reference to your letter quoted above (*sic*), I have the honour to state that I am not aware that the opening of famine relief works in this neighbourhood has raised the price of labour to any extent; on the other hand, I have been informed that at the present moment unskilled labour is much cheaper than during ordinary years.

Messrs. Bird and Co. state in their letter No. 1542 B., dated the 28th February, 1900, that during the whole of 1899 they were short of labour; this cannot possibly be due to famine relief works, since the latter were not opened till towards the end of the year. Regarding their statement that the people at Delhi will not take up labour at ordinary rates, but prefer to be relieved gratuitously, it would be interesting to know on what grounds they state this. The average daily numbers of local labourers on the one relief work in the Delhi District have been under 50, a number that can hardly have depleted the labour market. There has, moreover, been very little gratuitous relief given, and that only in exceptional cases.

I fail to see how any labour would prefer to earn a daily wage of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas by working hard on a relief work to earning 12 annas to Re. 1 at a mill.

Enclosure 7 in No. 179.

Extracts from the Report on the working of the Dandot Colliery (North-Western Railway) for the half-year ending the 31st December, 1899.

The increase (in the number of labourers) in both cases is chiefly due to labour being more plentiful owing to scarcity and high prices of food stuffs.

Labour came in more freely than usual during the half-year, but was still not equal to the demand, nor was the supply so good as was to be expected from the state of the season. The knowledge that they could get work on the famine relief works seemed to make the miners fairly independent of the Colliery. The scarcity of fodder acted prejudicially on the Pidh mines, as sufficient pack animals could not be obtained.

The average number of workers employed during the half-year was 1,690 men and 60 children,—total, 1,750.

V.

ADVANCES TO AGRICULTURISTS IN DISTRESSED TRACTS.

No. 180.

Letter from the Government of India to the Rgiht Honourable Lord George F. Hamilton, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 31 (*Revenue and Agriculture*), *dated Simla, the* 14*th June*, 1900.

We have the honour to acquaint Your Lordship with the measures which we have taken to enable the Local Governments to make loans on easy terms to agriculturists in distressed tracts for the purpose of purchasing seed and cattle and for their own subsistence during the next ensuing agricultural season.

2. In the Budget arrangements for the present year we previously allotted Rs. 50,38,000 to the distressed provinces under the head "Class 1 Loans." We recognised that the provision might prove insufficient, but the extent of the insufficiency could not be determined until the requirements of the agriculturists had been more fully ascertained and until we knew what sum would be at the disposal of the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund for grants to the poorest cultivators.

—	Lakhs of Rupees.
Punjab	13·82
Central Provinces	10·00
Bombay	26·56
Total ...	50·38

3. We have lately been in correspondence with the Local Governments on the subject and have ascertained from them that their requirements for the approaching agricultural season would be met by the addition of 72½ lakhs of rupees to the allotments for agricultural advances already made. We have accordingly increased the grants to an aggregate total of Rs. 1,22,88,000. We have also authorised the Local Governments to hereafter grant liberal remissions of the sums advanced in cases of necessity, to forego interest in all cases, and to postpone the recovery for at least one year of any portion of the principal. We append a copy of our instructions on these points.

—	Lakhs of Rupees.
Punjab	30·82
Ajmer	2·50
Central Provinces	27·00
Bombay	62·56
Total ...	122·88

The requirements of Berar have been provided for by a separate arrangement and will be chargeable to the revenues of the Assigned Districts.

4. The Central Committee of the Indian Famine Fund have made to the above-mentioned Provinces grants aggregating Rs. 50,45,000. This is in addition to the provincial charitable relief funds already at the disposal of these Governments which amount to about Rs. 6,45,000. The greater portion of this money will be distributed by the affiliated District Committees as gifts to the poorest classes of cultivators. The ordinary procedure will be that the recipients of gifts will be selected in each village on behalf of the District Charitable Committee by the revenue officers whose duty it is to ascertain the loan requirements of the villagers. The Revenue Officer will in the course of his inquiries mark off the poorest cultivators and recommend them for free gifts. The more substantial cultivators will receive loans from the State, and these in turn will hereafter be differentiated in respect of the recovery of the principal with reference to their circumstances.

—	Lakhs of Rupees.
Punjab	8·0
Ajmer	1·95
Central Provinces	17·0
Bombay	23·50
Total ...	50·45

5. We append a statement showing the grants made up to date to British Provinces and Native States by the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Fund. It will be observed that nearly one-third of the total amount distributed up to date has gone to Native States.

We have, &c.

(Signed) CURZON OF KEDLESTON.
E. H. H. COLLEN.
A. C. TREVOR.
C. M. RIVAZ.
T. RALEIGH.
E. FG. LAW.

Enclosure 1 in No. 180.

Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, and the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, Nos. 1042-1045-*F., Simla, the* 21*st May*, 1900.

I am directed to say that, as a special measure, undertaken with the object of facilitating the recovery of agriculturists in famine tracts from the losses sustained from drought, the Government of India are pleased to direct—

(1) that all advances made in famine tracts under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for seed, cattle and subsistence of cultivators, in connection with agricultural operations undertaken during the approaching rains, may be made free of interest ;

(2) that the first instalment in repayment of the principal of such advances may be postponed for 12 months from date of the advance. The dates for the remaining instalments will be determined by the Local Government with reference to the existing rules applicable to advances under the Act ;

(3) that the Local Government may hereafter grant remissions in respect of the principal of such advances, according to the circumstances of the debtors, up to one-half the aggregate sum advanced in the province.

Enclosure 2 in No. 180.

Grants made to British Provinces and Native States by the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Fund.

BRITISH PROVINCES.

Province.	Rs.
Bombay	23,50,000
Punjab	8,00,000
Central Provinces	17,00,000
Ajmer	1,95,000
Baluchistan	10,000
Total	50,55,000
Berar	4,75,000

NATIVE STATES.

State.	Rs.
Rajputana	10,50,000
Central India	5,75,000
Baroda	1,00,000
Bombay States	6,25,000
Hyderabad	1,00,000
Punjab States	1,00,000
Central Provinces States	1,00,000
Total	26,50,000
Grand Total	81,80,000

VI.

STATISTICS.

Statements showing numbers of persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in the districts affected by scarcity in India.—(District details.)

NOTE.—The date at the head of the tables is the date of the *Gazette of India* in which the provincial totals were published. The figures, however, actually show the numbers on relief in the preceding week.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Madras.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Kistna	8,397	1,855,582	—	—	—	1,616	1,616	—	—	—	1,616
2	Kurnool	7,514	817,811	—	—	—	3,299	3,299	—	—	—	3,299
3	Bellary	5,975	900,126	—	—	—	440	440	—	—	—	440
4	Anantapur	5,275	708,549	—	—	—	1,852	1,852	—	—	—	1,852
5	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	5,224	5,224	—	3,610	3,610	8,834
6	Nellore	8,765	1,463,736	—	—	—	356	356	—	—	—	356
	Total Madras ..	44,648	7,017,876	—	—	—	12,787	12,787	—	3,610	3,610	16,397
	Bombay and Sindh.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	66,716	20,222	86,938	—	86,938	9,164	8,176	17,340	104,278
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	53,890	7,437	61,327	—	61,327	3,637	15,239	18,876	80,203
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	23,635	4,316	27,951	—	27,951	3,215	4,575	7,790	35,741
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	59,780	10,191	69,971	—	69,971	2,138	6,296	8,434	78,405
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	4,669	1,123*	5,792	—	5,792	290*	2,565	2,855	8,647
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	8,686	488	9,174	83	9,257	—	406	406	9,663
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	103,349	34,678	138,027	—	138,027	4,069	13,756	17,825	155,852
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	174,082	41,747	215,829	—	215,829	2,705	23,611	26,316	242,145
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	65,409	15,202	80,611	—	80,611	1,052	12,301	13,353	93,964
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	166,513	43,762	210,275	—	210,275	6,665	9,015	15,680	225,955
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	62,730	23,924	86,654	—	86,654	966	1,807	2,773	89,427
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	51,508	8,207	59,715	—	59,715	—	2,081	2,081	61,796
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	15,999	3,058	19,057	—	19,057	65	4,177	4,242	23,299
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	1,383	87	1,470	882	2,352	—	341	341	2,693
15	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	—	—	—	159	159	—	—	—	159
16	Ratnagiri	3,922	1,105,926	—	—	—	550	550	—	—	—	550
17	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	298,203	3,335	279	3,614	—	3,614	1,308	122	1,430	5,044†
	Total Bombay and Sindh.	83,843	14,420,486	861,684	214,721	1,076,405	1,674	1,078,079	35,274	104,468	139,742	1,217,821‡
	Bengal.											
1	Ranchi	672	177,604	—	—	—	3,119	3,119	—	—	—	3,119
2	Palamau	590	103,464	—	—	—	346	346	—	136	136	482
	Total Bengal ..	1,262	281,068	—	—	—	3,465	3,465	—	136	136	3,601
	N.-W. P. and Oudh.											
1	Muttra	1,441	382,660	—	—	—	—	—	219	—	219	219
2	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	29	29
3	Jhansi	1,640	914,528	1,914	—	1,914	—	1,914	128	357	485	2399
	Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.	4,926	1,837,647	1,914	—	1,914	—	1,914	376	357	733	2,647

* Figures for week ending 12th May, 1900.
† Figures for week ending 5th May.
‡ Daily average for week.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Punjab.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Hissar	5,217	776,006	54,041	26,153	80,194	—	80,194	1,923	17,474	19,397	99,591
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	22,452	3,123	25,575	—	25,575	89	4,837	4,926	30,501
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,929	11,438	1,892	13,330	—	13,330	273	907	1,180	14,510
4	Delhi	1,290	638,639	1,362	345	1,707	—	1,707	236	—	236	1,943
5	Karnal	2,406	683,718	7,118	1,872	8,990	—	8,990	—	1,800	1,800	10,790
6	Ambala	2,754	1,033,427	—	—	—	701	701	—	—	—	701
7	Mooltan	6,079	631,434	158	80	238	—	238	—	—	—	238
8	Lahore	3,609	1,075,379	457	—	457	—	457	123§	—	123	580
9	Shahpur	4,840	493,583	4,525	133	4,658	874	5,532	59	—	59	5,591
10	Jhelum	3,995	609,056	—	—	—	320	320	—	—	—	320
	Total Punjab ..	33,971	8,200,701	101,551	33,598	135,149	1,895	137,044	2,703	25,018	27,721	164,765‡
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	16,667	2,820	19,487	—	19,487	7,896	7,422	15,318	34,805
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	6,201	—	6,201	—	6,201	7,416	729	8,145	14,346
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	27,171	1,145	28,316	—	28,316	10,707	6,439	17,146	45,462
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	1,502	—	1,502	—	1,502	13,186	343	13,529	15,031
5	Seoni	3,198	370,767	16,966	1,663	18,629	—	18,629	13,447	1,075	14,522	33,151
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	895	—	895	—	895	1,284	829	2,113	3,008
7	Hoshangabâd	4,594	529,945	57,267	4,248	61,515	—	61,515	8,818	5,699	14,517	76,032
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	21,639	7,418	29,057	—	29,057	28,168	8,708	36,876	65,933
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	62,979	8,027	71,006	—	71,006	23,254	7,574	30,828	101,834
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	39,169	5,958	45,127	—	45,127	13,636	2,581	16,217	61,344
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	48,687	8,116	56,803	—	56,803	10,586	3,938	14,524	71,327
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	26,356	2,990	29,346	—	29,346	5,783	21,661	27,444	56,790
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	111,299	13,449	124,748	—	124,748	29,269	15,277	44,546	169,294
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	66,773	6,989	73,762	—	73,762	25,031	10,254	35,285	109,047
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	56,383	5,608	61,991	—	61,991	25,468	11,377	36,845	98,836
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	453,093	39,308	492,401	—	492,401	136,217	14,786	151,003	643,404
17	Bilâspur	8,341	1,164,158	166,748	17,548	184,296	—	184,296	73,784	12,651	86,435	270,731
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	14,821	826	15,647	—	15,647	14,995	1,319	16,314	31,961
	Total Central Provinces	86,501	10,784,294	1,194,616	126,113	1,320,729	—	1,320,729	448,945	132,662	581,607	1,902,336
	Berar.											
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	76,496	12,332	88,828	—	88,828	5,243	3,439	8,682	97,510
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	70,676	24,061	94,737	—	94,737	7,348	19,886	27,234	121,971
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	82,106	29,035	111,141	—	111,141	5,787	5,676	11,463	122,604
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	32,478	9,500	41,978	—	41,978	1,394	5,454	6,848	48,826
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	8,782	2,371	11,153	—	11,153	214	—	214	11,367
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	19,232	6,482	25,714	—	25,714	1,786	4,257*	6,043	31,757
	Total Berar ..	17,717	2,897,040	289,770	83,781	373,551	—	373,551	21,772	38,712	60,484	434,035
	Ajmer Merwara.											
1	Ajmer	2 070	422,359	28,307	6,380	34,687	—	34,687	9,676	296	9,972	44,659
2	Merwara	641	119,999	61,186	6,947	68,133	—	68,133	11,544	6,411	17,955	86,088
	Total Ajmer-Merwara.	2,711	542,358	89,493	13,327	102,820	—	102,820	21,220	6,707	27,927	130,747
	Total British Provinces	275,579	45,981,470	2,539,028	471,540	3,010,568	19,821	3,030,389	530,290	311,670	841,960	3,872,349

‡ Daily average for week.
§ Figures for week ending 15th May, 1900.
* This figure includes 1,168 weavers employed in weaving.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			Grand Total.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Rajputana States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	76,683	6,994	83,677	—	83,677	16,242	10,896	27,138	110,815
2	Tonk	2,552	380,069	12,845	—	12,845	—	12,845	4,074	—	4,074	16,919
3	Bundi	2,220	295,675	11,934	—	11,934	—	11,934	4,690	—	4,690	16,624
4	Bharatpur	1,982	640,303	11,909	—	11,909	—	11,909	1,103	—	1,103	13,012
5	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	33,818	6,690	40,508	—	40,508	1,146	—	1,146	41,654
6	Shahpura	405	89,873	1,820	—	1,820	—	1,820	635	—	635	2,455
7	Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701	1,501	221	1,722	—	1,722	31	—	31	1,753
8	Alwar	3,144	767,786	4,702	160	4,862	—	4,862	—	2,043	2,043	6,905
9	Meywar	11,203	1,792,126	74,698†	—	74,698	—	74,698	—	22,636†	22,636	97,334
10	Kherwara	900	50,000	3,054	—	3,054	—	3,054	4,346	—	4,346	7,400
11	Kotra	650	21,000	Not received.								
12	Sirohi	1,964	190,836	2,387	679	3,066	—	3,066	1,039	1,218	2,257	5,323
13	Kishangarh	858	125,516	7,863	631	8,494	—	8,494	2,088	1,808	3,896	12,390
14	Jaipur	15,579	2,823,966	56,095	12,378	68,473	—	68,473	3,823	28,451	32,274	100,747
15	Jhalawar	2,722	343,583	2,462	—	2,462	498	2,960	1,747	600	2,347	5,307
16	Kota	3,784	526,267	16,805	—	16,805	9,662	26,467	4,026	4,099	8,125	34,592
17	Karauli	1,242	156,587	1,325	—	1,325	—	1,325	—	250	250	1,575
18	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	1,868†	—	1,868	—	1,868	955	—	955	2,823
19	Banswara	1,946	211,641	4,103†	—	4,103	—	4,103	—	565†	565	(*a*) 4,668
20	Kushalgarh	1,232	31,000	275†	—	275	—	275	—	270†	270	(*b*) 545
21	Partabgarh	886	87,975	3,685†	—	3,685	—	3,685	498	—	498	4,183
	Total Rajputana States	128,081	12,175,425	329,832	27,753	357,585	10,160‡	367,745	46,443	72,836	119,279	487,024
	Central India States.											
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	22,605	1,198	23,803	4,403	28,206	9,819	—	9,819	38,025
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	32,279	—	32,279	—	32,279	6,002	6,847	12,849	45,128
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	1,714	—	1,714	—	1,714	777	890	1,667	3,381
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	1,620	63	1,683	—	1,683	—	241	241	1,924
5	Bagli	*	14,675	3,108	411	3,519	—	3,519	285	1	286	3,805
6	Pathari (Indore) ..	†	†	564	287	851	35	886	6	21	27	913
7	Karaudia..	†	†	285	50	335	—	335	33	—	33	368
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	5,008	1,141	6,149	190	6,339	396	46	442	6,781
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	4,888	221	5,109	—	5,109	413	1,120	1,533	6,642
10	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	7,146	861	8,007	400	8,407	853	—	853	9,260
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	371	30	401	20	421	167	22	189	610
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	789	—	789	—	789	—	24	24	813
13	Maksudangarh.. ..	81	14,422	30	—	30	—	30	—	27	27	57
14	Pathari (Bhopal) ..	29	4,816	146	—	146	—	146	2	—	2	148
15	Muhammadgarh ..	29	4,720	30	—	30	200	230	25	—	25	255
16	Basoda	40	6,710	40	—	40	376	416	44	—	44	460
17	Sutalia Jagir	54	5,081	303	—	303	—	303	—	—	—	303
18	Yusuf Mohamed Khan's Jagir.	9	1,000	203	—	203	—	203	10	1	11	214
19	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	315	—	315	—	315	—	—	—	315
20	Orchha	2,079	333,020	505	62	567	—	567	229	205	434	1,001
21	Datia	912	186,440	1,173	—	1,173	—	1,173	31	209	240	1,413
22	Panna	2,492	239,333	‡								
23	Bijawar	965	123,414	18§	—	18§	—	18§	—	—	—	18§
24	Ajaigarh	771	93,048	‡								
25	Gaurihar	73	10,148	‡								

† Particulars for these figures are not available.
‡ On civil works.
(*a*) (*b*) These figures are for the week ending 31st April, 1900; statistics for a later date are not available.
* Included in Gwalior,
† Not known.
‡ Returns not received.
§ Return not received; previous week's figures repeated.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
26	Rewah	12,676	1,509,454	7,557	—	7,557	—	7,557	74	—	74	7,631
27	Nagode	501	84,097	4,131	112	4,243	—	4,243	208	93	301	4,544
28	Maihar	406	77,546	3,238	5	3,243	—	3,243	101	99	200	3,443
29	Sohawal	213	43,853	293	12	305	—	305	63	—	63	308
30	Jaora	581	117,650	11,729	3,145	14,874	—	14,874	2,978	67	3,045	17,919
31	Rutlam	720	89,160	3,196	336	3,532	—	3,532	2,333	18	2,351	5,883
32	Sailana	125	31,512	3,865	—	3,865	—	3,865	128	57	185	4,050
33	Sitamau	350	33,307	1,526	—	1,526	—	1,526	—	150	150	1,676
34	Piploda	60	12,814	659	—	659	—	659	25	27	52	711
35	Dhar	1,739	167,504	23,126	2,691	25,817	—	25,817	1,216	415	1,631	27,448
36	Barwani	1,362	80,264	3,833	608	4,441	—	4,441	1,351	400	1,751	6,192
37	Alirajpur	836	70,091	2,060	341	2,401	—	2,401	376	—	376	2,777
38	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	5,672	233	5,905	—	5,905	833	484	1,317	7,222
39	Jobat	132	14,336	911	—	911	—	911	300	50	350	1,261
40	Nimkhera	50	4,600	189	—	189	—	189	—	—	—	189
41	Bagode (Dewas) ..	75	8,000	232	279	511	—	511	18	83	101	612
42	Manpur (British) ..	71	5,000	416	—	416	—	416	11	—	11	427
	Total Central India States.	76,135	9,602,454	155,773	12,086	167,859	5,624	173,483	29,107	11,597	40,704	214,187
1	Hyderabad	82,698	11,537,040	350,029‖	—	350,029	—	350,029	—	51,404	51,404	401,433
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	58,711	—	58,711	—	58,711	—	36,659	36,659	95,370
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	250,000	40,334	290,334	—	290,334	33,143	5,286	38,429	328,763
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	66,852	24,323	91,175	—	91,175	6,319	350	6,669	97,844
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	28,452	—	28,452	—	28,452	3,182	—	3,182	31,634¶
4	Cambay	350	89,722	1,359	—	1,359	—	1,359	1,371	240	1,611	2,970
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	21,503	2,079	23,582	—	23,582	6,198	495	6,693	30,275
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	22,122	2,130	24,252	—	24,252	4,302	485	4,787	29,039*
7	Aundh	447	65,146	1,338	564	1,902	—	1,902	53	6	59	1,961
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,381	1,371	3,752	—	37,752	—	72	72	3,824
9	Jath	979	71,443	7,854	4,711	12,565	—	12,565	109	72	181	12,746
10	Daphlapur		8,343	200	37	237	—	237	—	—	—	237
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	1,504	377	1,881	—	1,881	—	—	—	1,881
12	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	3,406	1,947	5,353	—	5,353	—	—	—	5,353
13	Sangli	1,083	238,945	10,465	3,888	14,353	—	14,353	146	257	403	14,756
14	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	5,271	844	6.115	—	6,115	—	600	600	6,715
15	Akalkot	498	75,774	4,896	2,618	7,514	—	7,514	117	1,872	1,989	9,503
16	Mudhol	361	61,815	984	—	984	—	984	—	—	—	984
17	Phaltan	397	66,383	1,011	322	1,333	—	1,333	12	9	21	1,354
18	Bhor	1,491	155,669	1,741	25	1,766	—	1,766	18	60	78	1,844**
19	Dharampore	794	120,498	4,097	—	4,097	—	4,097	184	—	184	4,281
20	Ramdurg	169	36,181	992	150	1,142	—	1,142	—	17	17	1,159
21	Bansda	215	41,373	4,653	—	4,653	—	4,653	303	—	303	4,956¶
22	Kurundvad Senior ..	174	43,809	111	—	111	—	111	—	8	8	119**
	Total Bombay Native States.	54,274	7,485,643	441,192	85,720	526,912	—	526,912	55,457	9,829	65,286	592,198

‖ Includes dependants.
¶ Numbers on last day of week ; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
** Figures for week ending 12th May.
* Included in Gwalior.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH MAY, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Punjab Native States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Jindh	1,268	284,560	1,235	—	1,235	—	1,235	—	1,702	1,702	2,937
2	Pataudi	53	19,002	314	—	314	—	314	—	343	343	657
3	Dujana	89	26,450	444	—	444	—	444	—	41	41	485
4	Loharu	226	20,139	411	—	411	—	411	—	26	26	437
5	Nabha	936	282,756	778	—	778	—	778	—	1,703	1,703	2,481
6	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	13,423	—	13,423	—	13,423	—	3,535	3,535	16,958
7	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	8,612	—	8,612	—	8,612	—	—	—	8,612
	Total Punjab Native States.	25,808	2,866,470	25,217	—	25,217	—	25,217	—	7,350	7,350	32,567*
	Central Provinces Feudatory States.											
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	9,118	—	9,118	—	9,118	—	6,851	6,851	15,969
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,525	5,941	—	5,941	—	5,941	—	906	906	6,847
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	5,143	—	5,143	—	5,143	—	547	547	5,690
4	Khairagarh	931	181,184	6,952	—	6,952	—	6,952	—	1,502	1,502	8,454
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	2,880	—	2,880	—	2,880	—	2,405	2,405	5,285
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	2,270	—	2,270	—	2,270	—	3,012	3,012	5,282
7	Kawarda..	798	91,813	549	—	549	—	549	—	1,156	1,156	1,705
8	Sakti	138	25,374	1,026	—	1,026	—	1,026	—	251	251	1,277
9	Bastar	13,062	310,884	3,578	—	3,578	—	3,578	—	6,150	6,150	9,728
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	4,407	—	4,407	—	4,407	—	372	372	4,779
11	Chhuikhadan	154	36,288	616	—	616	—	616	—	689	689	1,305
12	Bamra	1,988	104,367	4,840	—	4,840	—	4,840	—	—	—	4,840
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	24,702	1,795,332	47,320	—	47,320	—	47,320	—	23,841	23,841	71,161
	Kashmir (Jammu) ..	7,917	1,088,676	—	—	—	253	253	—	—	—	253
	Total Native States ..	407,841	48,966,436	1,408,074	125,559	1,533,633	16,037	1,549,670	131,007	213,516	344,523	1,894,193
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	683,420	94,947,906	3 947,102	597,099	4,544,201	35,858	4,580,059	661,297	525,186	1,186,483	5,766,542

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900.

	Madras.											
1	Kistna	8,397	1,855,582	—	—	—	1,395	1,395	—	—	—	1,395
2	Kurnool	7,514	817,811	—	—	—	4,127	4,127	—	—	—	4,127
3	Bellary	5,975	900,126	—	—	—	647	647	—	—	—	647
4	Anantapur	5,275	708,549	—	—	—	1,873	1,873	—	—	—	1,873
5	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	3,150	3,150	—	3,050	3,050	6,200
	Total Madras ..	35,883	5,554,140	—	—	—	11,192	11,192	—	3,050	3,050	14,242
	Bombay and Sindh.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	74,758	21,509	96,267	—	96,267	5,691	43,180	48,871	145,138
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	94,814	10,648	105,462	—	105,462	1,237	24,393	25.620	131,082
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	45,976	4,360†	50,336	—	50,336	2,736	20,220	22,956	73,292
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	54,269	8,181	62,450	—	62,450	2,333	15,261	17,594	80,044
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	6,356	1,657	8,013	—	8,013	650	17,114	17,764	25,777

* The figures are the daily averages for the week.
† Figures for the week ending 16th June, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay and Sindh—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	1,511	537	2,048	66	2,114	—	1,138	1,138	3,252
7	Sholapur	4,542	760,689	119,602	37,394	156,996	—	156,996	5,258	15,725	20,983	177,979
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	198,469	45,479	244,948	—	244,948	2,239	26,114	28,353	273,301
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	57,036	16,662	73,701	—	73,701	1,875	15,456	17,331	91,032
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	141,385	36,579	177,964	—	177,964	12,789	11,587	24,376	202,340
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	62,387	20,603	82,990	—	82,990	1,445	3,218	4,663	87,653
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	37,177	6,980	44,157	—	44,157	—	4,221	4,221	48,378
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	14,260	2,890	17,150	—	17,150	143	4,703	4,846	21,996
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	2,583	555	3,138	—	3,138	—	401	401	3,539
15	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	—	—	—	209	209	—	—	—	209
16	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	298,203	1,688	144	1,832	—	1,832	948	247	1,195	3,027*
	Total Bombay and Sindh.	79,921	13,314,560	912,274	215,178	1,127,452	275	1,127,727	37,344	202,968	240,312	1,368,039†
	Bengal.											
1	Ranchi	672	177,604	5,859	—	5,859	2,520	8,379	—	4,198	4,198	12,577
2	Palamau	590	103,464	208	—	208	361	569	—	157	157	726
	Total Bengal ..	1,262	281,068	6,067	—	6,067	2,881	8,948	—	4,355	4,355	13,303
	N.-W.-P. and Oudh.											
1	Muttra	1,441	382,660	—	—	—	—	—	157	—	157	157
2	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
3	Jhansi	1,640	914,528	1,301	—	1,301	—	1,301	209	570	779	2,080
	Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.	4,926	1,837,647	1,301	—	1,301	—	1,301	394	570	964	2,265
	Punjab.											
1	Hissar	5,217	776,006	53,089	22,848	75,937	—	75,937	2,368	20,766	23,134	99,071
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	27,766	2,735	30,501	—	30,501	108	5,279	5,387	35,888
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,929	11,862	2,419	14,281	—	14,281	288	1960	2,248	16,529
4	Delhi	1,290	638,689	‡	‡	‡	—	—	158	—	158	158
5	Karnal	2,406	683,718	9,283	1,915	11,198	—	11,198	—	1,903	1,903	13,101
6	Umballa	2,754	1,033,427	367§	—	367	—	367	—	—	—	367
7	Lahore	3,609	1,075,379	73	—	73‖	—	73	¶	9§	9	82
8	Jhelum	3,995	609,056	—	—	—	514	514	—	—	—	514
	Total Punjab ..	23,052	6,075,679	102,440	29,917	132,357	514	132,871	2,922	29,917	32,839	165,710
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	19,003	1,349	20,352	—	20,352	33,795	10,508	44,303	64,655
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	4,692	—	4,692	—	4,692	18,886	1,593	20,479	25,171
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,148	25,508	1,578	27,086	—	27,086	20,761	8,150	28,911	55,997
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	3,637	—	3,637	—	3,637	28,102	829	28,931	32,568
5	Seoni	3,198	370,767	10,635	1,440	12,075	—	12,075	20,721	1,928	22,649	34,724
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	561	—	561	—	561	2,240	1,053	3,293	3,854
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	45,052	3,787	48,839	—	48,839	27,456	5,060	32,516	81,355
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	11,874	4,189	16,063	—	16,063	48,546	9,146	57,692	73,755

* Figures for the week ending 16th June, 1900.
† Daily averages of the week.
‡ Works closed.
§ Last week's figures have been given.
‖ Works closed on 20th June, 1900.
¶ Poor house closed.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			Grand Total.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central Provinces—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	52,866	7,164	60,030	—	60,030	35,621	8,710	44,331	104,361
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	28,300	4,693	32,993	..	32,993	30,228	2,201	32,429	65,422
11	Wardha	2,428	400 854	44,012	10,895	54,907	—	54,907	26,032	—	26,032	80,939
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	22,406	2,834	25.240	—	25,240	14,246	23,087	37,333	62,573
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	79,057	7,586	86,643	—	86,643	59,019	18,099	77,118	163,761
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	50,674	5,732	56,406	—	56,406	41,227	15,025	56,252	112,658
15	Balaghat	3,139	383.331	37,950	3,767	41,717	—	41,717	40,882	12,906	53,788	95,505
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	301,007	29,172	330,179	—	330,179	212,500	22,879	235,379	565,558
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	100,297	14,911	115,208	—	115,208	89,388	13,408	102,796	218,004
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	14,150	1,154	15,304	—	15,304	29,508	1,631	31,139	46,443
	Total Central Provinces	86,542	10,784,294	851,681	100,251	951,932	—	951,932	779,158	156,213	935,371	1,887,303
	Berar.											
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	83,307	12,263	95,570	—	95,570	12,604	5,906	18,510	114,080
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	85,208	24,320	109,528	—	109,528	23,615	19,257	42,872	152,400
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	79,842	19,459	99,301	—	99,301	31,818	6.825	38,643	137,944
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	30,070	7,341	37,411	—	37,411	14,745	6,896	21,641	59,052
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	12,511	3,251	15,762	—	15,762	1,516	2,599	4,115	19,877
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	21,718	5,482	27,200	—	27,200	9,821	6,621*	16,442	43,642
	Total Berar	17,717	2,897,040	312,656	72,116	384,772	—	384,772	94,119	48,104	142,223	526,995
	Ajmer-Merwara.											
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	35,794	7,163	42,957	—	42,957	12,335	329	12,664	55,621
2	Merwara	641	119,999	57,978	7,191	65,169	—	65,169	11,592	6,146	17,738	82,907
	Total Ajmer-Merwara	2,711	542,358	93,772	14,354	108,126	—	108,126	23,927	6,475	30,402	138,528
	Total British Provinces	252,014	41,286,786	2,280,191	431,816	2,712,007	14,862	2,726,869	937,864*	451,652	1,389,516	4,116,385
	Rajputana States.											
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	67,091	5,841	72,932	—	72,932	13,707	10,775	24,482	97,414
2	Tonk	2,552	380,069	8,022	—	8,022	—	8,022	4,907	—	4,907	12.929
3	Bundi	2,220	295,675	13,149	—	13,149	—	13,149	9,253	—	9,253	22,402
4	Bharatpur	1,982	640,303	10,434	—	10,434	—	10,434	790	—	790	11,224
5	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	34,555	7,755	42,310	—	42,310	4,826	—	4,826	47,136
6	Shahpura	405	89,873	1,555	—	1,555	—	1,555	1,618	—	1,618	3,173
7	Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701	1,092	184	1,276	—	1,276	32	—	32	1,308
8	Alwar	3,144	767,786	6,095	325	6,420	—	6,420	—	2,601	2,601	9,021
9	Meywar	11,203	1,792,126	(a)73,202	—	73,202	—	73,202	—	(a) 26,062	26,062	99,264
10	Kherwara	900	50,000	2,568	—	2,568	—	2,568	5,525	—	5,525	8,093
11	Kotra	650	21,000	1,509	—	1,509	—	1,509	260	685	945	2,454
12	Sirohi	1,964	190,836	5,884	1,309	7,193	—	7,193	1,499	1,695	3,194	10,387
13	Kishangarh	858	125,516	8,216	845	9,061	—	9,061	2,308	2,877	5,185	14,246
14	Jaipur	15,579	2,823,966	56,191	10,976	67,167	—	67,167	3,453	39,079	42,532	(c)109,699
15	Jhallawar	2,722	343,583	3,330	—	3,330	—	3,330	2,656	300	2,956	6,286
16	Kotah	3,784	526,267	18,130	—	18,130	—	18,130	6,133	3,414	9,547	27,677
17	Karauli	1,242	156,587	1,684	—	1,684	—	1,684	325	—	325	2,009
18	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	3,886	128	4,014	—	4,014	838	139	977	(b) 4,991
19	Banswara	1,946	211,641	(a) 5,300	—	5,300	—	5,300	700	—	700	6,000
20	Kushalgarh	1,232	31,000	(a) 295	—	295	—	295	270	—	270	565
21	Partabgarh	886	87,975	(a) 4,017	—	4,017	—	4,017	506	—	506	4,523
	Total Rajputana States	128,081	12,175,425	326,205	27,363	353,568	—	353,568	59,606	87,627	147,233	500,801

* This figure includes 1,233 persons employed on weaving.
(a) Details of these figures are not available.
(b) These are for week ending 19th June, 1900.
(c) Incomplete as figures for one Nizamat have not been received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	19,598	1,255	20,853	1,640	22,493	8,697	—	8,697	31,190
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	26,618	—	26,618	—	26,618	9,468	2,992	12,460	39,078
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	921	—	921	—	921	355	441	796	1,717
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	1,061	21	1,082	—	1,082	—	239	239	1,321
5	Bagli	†	14,675	2,958	411	3,369	—	3,369	—	—	—	3,369
6	Pathari (Indore) ..	‡	‡	328	287	615	37	652	240	21	261	913
7	Karaudia	‡	‡	70	13	83	—	83	43	—	43	126
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	9,988	1,884	11,872	260	12,132	1,270	51	1,321	13,453
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	2,360	86	2,446	—	2,446	315	845	1,160	3,606
10	Narsingharh	669	116,280	6,198	640	6,838	—	6,838	869	—	869	7,707
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	170	15	185	20	205	137	20	157	362
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	1,177	—	1,177	—	1,177	22	46	68	1,245
13	Maksudangarh.. ..	81	14,422	29	—	29	—	29	—	9	9	38
14	Pathari (Bhopal) ..	29	4,816	38	—	38	—	38	42	—	42	80
15	Mahomedgarh	29	4,720	30	—	30	200	230	25	—	25	255
16	Basoda	40	6,710	42	—	42	359	401	42	12	54	455
17	Sutalia Jagir	54	5,081	282	—	282	—	282	—	—	—	282
18	Yusuf Mohamed Khan's Jagir.	9	1,000	191	—	191	—	191	14	5	19	210
19	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	480	—	480	—	480	—	—	—	480
20	Orchha	2,079	333,020	456	50	506	—	506	230	175	405	911
21	Datia	912	186,440	515	—	515	—	515	25	159	184	699
22	Panna	2,492	239,333	272	602	874	—	874	97	40	137	1,011
23	Bijawar	965	123,414	66	—	66	—	66	—	—	—	66
24	Ajaigarh	771	93,048									
25	Gaurihar	73	10,148									
26	Samthar	178	40,541	5,645	—	5,645	—	5,645	—	224	224	5,869
27	Rewah	12,676	1,509,454	7,126	83	7,209	—	7,209	119	—	119	7,328
28	Nagode	501	84,097	3,734	86	3,820	—	3,820	149	94	243	4,063
29	Maihar	406	77,546	1,319	12	1,331	—	1,331	85	177	262	1.593
30	Sohawal	213	43,853	204	10	214	—	214	29	—	29	243
31	Jaora	581	117,650	6,995	2,057	9,052	—	9,052	1,436	53	1,489	10,541
32	Rutlam	720	89,160	3.004	479	3,483	—	3,483	887	—	887	4,370
33	Sailana	125	31,512	2,337	—	2,337	—	2,337	161	52	213	2,550
34	Sitamau	350	33,307	1,116	—	1,116	—	1,116	180	150	330	1,446
35	Piploda	60	12,814	693	—	693	—	693	31	34	65	758
36	Dhar	1,739	167,504	15,983	1,685	17,668	—	17,668	1,711	200	1,911	19,579
37	Barwani	1,362	80,264	3,597	142	3,739	—	3,739	1,942	498	2,440	6,179
38	Alirajpur..	836	70,091	2,367	651	3,018	—	3,018	358	—	358	3,376*
39	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	5,748	231	5,979	—	5,979	180	—	180	6,159
40	Jobat	132	14,336	918	—	918	—	918	350	50	400	1,318*
41	Nimkhera	50	4,600	128	—	128	—	128	77	—	77	205
42	Bagode (Dewas) ..	75	8,000	282	348	630	—	630	29	125	154	784
43	Manpur (British) ..	71	5,000	127	—	127	—	127	—	—	—	127*
	Total Central India States.	76,313	9,641,995	135,171	11,048	146,219	2,516	148,735	29,615	6,712	36,327	185,062
1	Hyderabad	82,698	11.537,040	414,163‖	—	414,163	—	414,163	—	86,040	86,040	500,203
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	57,633	—	57,633	—	57,633	—	33,336	33,336	90,969

* Return not received; previous week's figures have been repeated.
† Included in Gwalior.
‡ Not known.
§ Returns not received.
‖ Includes dependants.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH JUNE, 1900—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay Native States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	173,334	25,334	198,668	—	198,668	27,857	3,715	31,572	230,240
2	Palanpur..	7,775	645,526	52,610	17,279	69,889	—	69,889	6,599	276	6,875	76,764
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	20,991	—	20,991	—	20,991	2,410	—	2,410	23,401¶
4	Cambay	350	89,722	376	—	376	—	376	1,915	119	2,034	2,410
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,596	24,432	2,046	26,478	—	26,478	3,469	442	3,911	30,389
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	20,419	2,083	22,502	—	22,502	4,269	50	4,319	26,821**
7	Aundh	447	65,146	1,828	650	2,478	—	2,478	106	26	132	2,610
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,677	1,392	4,069	—	4,069	—	106	106	4,175
9	Jath	979	71,443	8,152	5,131	13,283	—	13,283	186	82	268	13,551
10	Daphlapur		8,343	220	29	249	—	249	—	—	—	249
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	1,777	830	2,607	—	2,607	—	—	—	2,607
12	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	2,305	1,391	3,696	—	3,696	—	—	—	3,696
13	Sangli	1,083	238,945	9,591	3,448	13,039	—	13,039	375	33	408	13,447
14	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	2,830	724	3,554	—	3,554	—	341	341	3,895
15	Akalkot	498	75,774	5,636	3,066	8,702	—	8,702	161	1,807	2,028	10,730
16	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,033	—	1,033	—	1,033	—	—	—	1,033
17	Phaltan	397	56,383	289	76	365	—	365	—	9	9	374
18	Bhor	1,491	155,669	342	—	342	—	342	21	59	80	422**
19	Dharampore	794	120,498	3,353	—	3,353	—	3,353	203	—	203	3,556
20	Ramdurg..	169	36,181	1,294	184	1,478	—	1,478	—	116	116	1,594
21	Bansda	215	41,373	3,166	—	3,166	—	3,166	810	—	810	3,976¶
22	Kurundvad (Senior) ..	174	43,809	565	20	585	—	585	—	970	970	1,555
	Total Bombay Native States.	54,274	7,475,643	337,220	63 683	400,903	—	400,903	48,381	8,211	56,592	457,495
	Punjab Native States.											
1	Jindh	1,268	284,560	537	—	537	—	537	—	2,930	2,930	3,467
2	Pataudi	53	19,002	813	—	813	—	813	—	388	388	1,201
3	Dujana	89	26,450	389	—	389	—	389	—	155	155	544
4	Loharu	226	20,139	66	—	66	—	66	—	17	17	83
5	Nabha	936	282,756	810	—	810	—	810	—	1,664	1,664	2,474
6	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	14,595	—	14,595	—	14,595	—	8,051	8,051	22,646
7	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	3,929	—	3,929	—	3,929	—	—	—	3,929
	Total Punjab Native States.	25,808	2,866,470	21,139	—	21,139	—	21,139	..	13,205	13,205	34,344
	Central Provinces Feudatory States.											
1	Nandgaon	871	133,866	2,730	—	2,730	—	2,730	—	9,449	9,449	12,179
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,525	2,906	—	2,906	—	2,906	—	1,808	1,808	4,714
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	3,106	—	3,106	—	3,106	—	639	639	3,745
4	Khairagarh	931	181,184	4,253	—	4,253	—	4,253	—	2,232	2,232	6,485
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	1,170	—	1,170	—	1,170	—	2,654	2,654	3,824
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	1,040	—	1,040	—	1,040	—	2,883	2,883	3,923
7	Kawarda..	798	91,813	433	—	433	—	433	—	1,419	1,419	1,852
8	Sakti	138	25,374	604	—	604	—	604	—	359	359	963
9	Bastar	13,062	310,884	3,250	—	3,250	—	3,250	..	9,793	9,793	13,043
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	849	—	849	—	849	—	434	434	1,283
11	Chhuikhadan	154	36,288	161	—	161	—	161	—	492	492	653
12	Bamra	1,988	104,367	4,652	—	4,652	—	4,652	—	—	—	4,652
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	24,702	1,795,332	25,154	—	25,154	—	25,154	—	32,162	32,162	57,316
	Kashmir (Jammu) ..	7,917	1,088.676	—	—	—	1,062	1,062	—	—	—	1,062
	Total Native States	408,019	48,995,977	1,316,685	102,094	1,418,779	3,578	1,422,357	137,602	267,293	404,895	1,827,252
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	660,033	90,282,763	3,596,876	533,910	4,130,786	18,440	4,149,226	1,075,466	718,945	1,794,411	5,943,637

¶ Numbers on last day of week; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
** Figures for week ending 16th June, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1900.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Madras.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Kistna	8,397	1,855,582	—	—	—	1,651	1,651	—	—	—	1,651
2	Kurnool	7,514	817,811	—	—	—	1,498	1,498	—	—	—	1,498
3	Anantapur	5,275	708,549	—	—	—	2,410	2,410	—	—	—	2,410
4	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	3,869	3,869	—	3,060	3,060	6,929
	Total Madras ..	29,908	4,654,014	—	—	—	9,428	9,428	—	3,060	3,060	12,488
	Bombay and Sindh.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	101,041	25,776	126,817	—	126,817	7,351	56,162	63,513	190,330
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	145,659	12,701	158,360	—	158,360	1,580	75,074	76,654	235,014
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	62,558	7,538	70,096	—	70,096	3,652	39,012	42,664	112,760
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	59,612	7,487	67,099	—	67,099	2,002	57,592	59,594	126,693
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	4,760	697	5,457	—	5,457	848	29,564	30,412	35,869
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	575	97	672	—	672	320	1,922	2,242	2,914
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	97,606	30,891	128,497	—	128,497	5,822	19,479	25,301	153,798
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	883,755	179,603	41,971	221,574	—	221,574	1,902	27,568	29,470	251,044
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	43,425	11,980	55,405	—	55,405	1,851	19,929	21,780	77,185
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	137,895	33,971	171,866	—	171,866	14,506	16,407	30,913	202,779
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	67,642	19,458	87,100	—	87,100	2,347	7,522	9,869	96,969
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	22,598	1,161	23,759	—	23,759	217	6,991	7,208	30,967
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	10,430	2,999	13,429	—	13,429	99	5,009	5,108	18,537
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	3,339	746	4,085	—	4,085	—	716	716	4,801
15	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	298,203	1,248	104	1,352	—	1,352	982	434	1,416	2,768*
	Total Bombay & Sindh	75,318	12,263,246	937,991	197,577	1,135,568	—	1,135,568	43,479	363.381	406,860	1,542,428†
	Bengal.											
1	Ranchi	7,140	1,128 885	7,764	—	7,764	1,370	9,134	4,965	263	5,228	14,362
2	Palamau	4,905	596,770	194	—	194	868	1,062	744	—	744	1,806
	Total Bengal ..	12,045	1,725,655	7,958	—	7,958	2,238	10,196	5,709	263	5,972	16,168
	N.-W. P. and Oudh.											
1	Muttra	1,441	382,660	—	—	—	—	—	203	—	203	203
2	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	33	33
3	Jhansi	1,640	914,528	1,263	—	1,263	—	1,263	295	988	1,283	2,546
	Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.	4,926	1,837,647	1,263	—	1,263	—	1,263	531	988	1,519	2,782
	Punjab.											
1	Hissar	5,217	776,006	52,244	23,371	75,615	—	75,615	2,394	26,717	29,111	104,726
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	32,337	3,517	35,854	—	35,854	184	5,893	6,077	41,931
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,929	9,691	2,516	12,207	—	12,207	654	2,433	3,087	15,294
4	Delhi	1,200	638,689	569	88	657	—	657	155	—	155	812
5	Karnal	2,406	683,718	9,103	1,811	10,914	—	10,914	—	1,878	1,878	12,792
6	Jhelum	3,995	609,056	—	—	—	634	634	—	—	—	634
	Total Punjab ..	16,689	3,966,873	103,944	31,303	135,247	634	135,881	3,387	36,921	40,308	176,189

* Figures for week ending 14th July, 1900.
† Daily averages of the week.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			Grand Total.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central Provinces.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	10,561	606	11,167	—	11,167	55,483	17,185	72,668	83,835
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	340	—	340	—	340	36,602	2,810	39,412	39,752
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	12,074	1,110	13,184	—	13,184	33,189	13,763	46,952	60,136
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	5,518	—	5,518	—	5,518	30,312	1,705	32,017	37,535
5	Seoni	3,198	370,767	3,711	661	4,372	—	4,372	25,345	2,369	27,714	32,086
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	—	—	—	—	—	6,455	1,896	8,351	8,351
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	22,412	2,776	25,188	—	25,188	80,531	4,854	85,385	110,573
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	5,856	2,110	7,966	—	7,966	67,894	10,568	78,462	86,428
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	35,377	2,476	37,853	—	37,853	78,691	9,479	88,170	126,023
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	17,741	3,178	20,919	—	20,919	44,256	2,024	46,280	67,199
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	33,849	4,761	38,610	—	38,610	60,191	5,081	65,272	103,882
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	9,834	1,249	11,083	—	11,083	33,227	26,997	60,224	71,307
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	64,766	7,394	72,160	—	72,160	106,882	20,499	127,381	199,541
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	43,934	4,556	48,490	—	48,490	60,498	21,213	81,711	130,201
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	15,979	1,211	17,190	—	17,190	67,855	27,312	95,167	112,357
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	110,678	15,548	126,226	—	126,226	444,837	25,140	469,977	596,203
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	64,234	10,820	75,054	—	75,054	125,654	17,564	143,218	218,272
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	14,489	1,533	16,022	—	16,022	53,830	1,898	55,728	71,750
	Total Central Provinces	86,542	10,784,294	471,353	59,989	531,342	—	531,342	1,411,732	212,357	1,624,089	2,155,431
	Berar.											
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	73,842	9,535	83,377	—	83,377	16,297	5,600	21,897	105,274
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	67,939	18,250	86,189	—	86,189	7,203	4,013	11,216	97,405*
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	63,640	* 15,016	78,656	—	78,656	34,326	6,314	40,640	119,296
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	47,596	5,670	53,266	—	53,266	20,328	6,876	27,204	80,470
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	13,403	3,652	17,055	—	17,055	4,420	5,369	9,789	26,844
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	24,452	2,808	27,260	—	27,260	21,220	15,066†	36,286	63,546
	Total Berar	17,717	2,897,040	290,872	54,931	345,803	—	345,803	103,794	43,238	147,032	492,835
	Ajmer-Merwara.											
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	18,143	5,390	23,533	—	23,533	16,330	506	16,836	40,389
2	Merwara	641	119,999	46,653	6,476	53,129	—	53,129	12,036	5,401	17,437	70,566
	Total Ajmer-Merwara	2,711	542,358	64,796	11,866	76,662	—	76,662	28,366	5,907	34,273	110,955
	Total British Provinces	245,856	38,671,127	1,878,177	355,666	2,233,843	12,300	2,246,143	1,596,998	666,115	2,263,113	4,509,256
	Rajputana States.											
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	50,694	4,917	55,611	—	55,611	15,520	8,211	23,731	79,342
2	Tonk	2,552	380,069	3,570	—	3,570	—	3,570	4,401	—	4,401	7,971
3	Bundi	2,220	295,675	13,212	—	13,212	—	13,212	6,388	—	6,388	19,600
4	Bharatpur	1,982	640,303	5,491	—	5,491	—	5,491	786	—	786	6,277
5	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	15,118	3,108	18,226	—	18,226	7,053	—	7,053	25,279
6	Shahpura	405	89,873	852	—	852	—	852	889	—	889	1,741
7	Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701	712	92	804	—	804	26	85	111	915
8	Alwar	3,144	767,786	6,122	346	6,468	—	6,468	52	2,703	2,755	9,223
9	Meywar	11,203	1,792,126	(a)68,277	—	68,277	—	68,277	—	(a) 23,817	23,817	92,094
10	Kherwara	900	50,000	963	—	963	—	963	4,802	—	4,802	5,765

* Figures incomplete.
† This figure includes 1,330 persons employed on weaving.
(a) Details of these figures are not available.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Rajputana States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
11	Kotra	650	21,000	1,087	—	1,087	—	1,087	441	780	1,221	2,308
12	Sirohi	1,964	190,836	7,288	2,013	9,301	—	9,301	1,424	1,321	2,745	12,046
13	Kishangarh	858	125,516	6,744	371	7,115	—	7,115	1,648	9,225	10,873	17,988
14	Jaipur	15,579	2,823,966	45,325	10,514	55,839	—	55,839	3,493	35,795	39,288	(c)95,127
15	Jhalawar	2,722	343,583	1,678	—	1,678	—	1,678	2,465	200	2,665	4,343
16	Kotah	3,784	526,267	14,881	—	14,881	—	14,881	6,779	3,868	10,647	25,528
17	Karauli	1,242	156,587	735	—	735	—	735	240	—	240	975
18	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	6,618	—	6,618	—	6,618	1,399	—	1,399	8,017
19	Banswara	1,946	211,641	5,525	—	5,525	—	5,525	884	—	884	6,409
20	Kushalgarh	1,232	31,000	287	—	287	—	287	265	—	265	552
21	Partabgarh	886	87,975	566	—	566	—	566	435	—	435	1,001
	Total Rajputana States	128,081	12,175,425	255,745	21,361	277,106	—	277,106	59,390	86,005	145,395	422,501
	Central India States.											
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	11,627	983	12,610	1,092	13,702	9,598	—	9,598	23,300
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	14,976	—	14,976	—	14,976	8,936	1,524	10,460	25,436
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	641	—	641	—	641	326	690	1,016	1,657
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	77	—	77	—	77	—	239	239	316
5	Bagli	†	14,675	2,958	411	3,369	—	3,369	247	—	247	3,616
6	Pathari (Indore) ..	‡	‡	530	287	817	—	817	84	21	105	922
7	Karaudia	‡	‡	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	43	43*
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	11,744	1,489	13,233	154	13,387	4,754	50	4,804	18,191
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	745	—	745	—	745	257	963	1,220	1,965
10	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	1,629	73	1,702	—	1,702	1,146	—	1,146	2,848
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	123	—	123	—	123	242	—	242	365
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	410	—	410	—	410	152	203	355	765
13	Maksudangarh	81	14,422	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	Pathari (Bhopal) ..	29	4,816	—	—	—	—	—	41	—	41	41
15	Muhammadgarh ..	29	4,720	8	—	8	200	208	45	—	45	253
16	Basoda	40	6,710	37	—	37	230	267	42	6	48	315
17	Sutalia Jagir	54	5,081	—	—	—	—	—	25	37	62	62
18	Yusuf Mohamed Khan's Jagir.	9	1,000	105	—	105	—	105	3	5	8	113
19	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	570	395	965	—	965	230	200	430	1,395
20	Orchha	2,079	333,020	473	59	532	—	532	248	112	360	892
21	Datia	912	186,440	90	—	90	—	90	30	135	165	255
22	Panna	2,492	239,333	227	292	519	—	519	101	41	142	661(a)
23	Bijawar	965	123,414	24	—	24	—	24	—	—	—	24(b)
24	Ajaigarh	771	93,048	§								
25	Gaurihar	73	10,148									
26	Samthar	178	40,541	600	—	600	—	600	—	224	224	824
27	Rewah	12,676	1,509,454	3,302	—	3,302	—	3,302	238	—	238	3,540
28	Nagode	501	84,097	2,679	72	2,751	—	2,751	245	93	338	3,089
29	Maihar	406	77,546	359	7	366	—	366	59	111	170	536
30	Sohawal	213	43,853	147	4	151	—	151	35	—	35	186
31	Jaora	581	117,650	2,610	530	3,140	—	3,140	1,629	79	1,708	4,848
32	Rutlam	720	89,160	628	245	873	—	873	1,190	—	1,190	2,063
33	Sailana	125	31,512	1,003	—	1,003	—	1,003	138	29	167	1,170
34	Sitamau	350	33,307	340	—	340	—	340	355	150	505	845
35	Piploda	60	12,814	350	—	350	—	350	78	—	78	428

* Return not received; previous week's figures have been repeated.
† Included in Gwalior.
‡ Not known.
§ Returns not received.
(*a*) Figures for week ending 30th June, 1900.
(*b*) Figures for week ending 7th July, 1900.
(*c*) These are incomplete as figures for some districts have not been received

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
36	Dhar	1,739	167,504	15,013	1,627	16,640	—	16,640	1,521	117	1,638	18,278
37	Barwani	1,362	80,264	3,529	154	3,683	—	3,683	2,123	519	2,642	6,325
38	Alirajpur	836	70,091	2,359	32	2,391	—	2,391	578	—	578	2,969
39	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	4,927	—	4,927	—	4,927	143	228	371	5,298
40	Jobat	132	14,336	190	—	190	—	190	400	50	450	640
41	Nimkhera	50	4,600	145	—	145	—	145	137	—	137	282*
42	Bagode (Dewas) ..	75	8,000	45	96	141	—	141	204	150	354	495
43	Manpur (British) ..	71	5,000	15	—	15	—	15	12	—	12	27
	Total Central India States.	76,313	9,642,995	85,235	6,756	91,991	1,676	93,667	35,635	5,976	41,611	135,278
1	Hyderabad	82,698	11,537,040	388,293‖	—	388,293	—	388,293	—	111,416	111,416	499,709
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	72,959	—	72,959	—	72,959	—	30,741	30,741	103,700¶
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	180,167	26,167	206,334	—	206,334	32,857	8,857	41,714	248,048
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	65,836	20,585	86,421	—	86,421	7,799	1,302	9,101	95,522
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	17,558	—	17,558	—	17,558	2,079	—	2,079	(*a*)19,637
4	Cambay	350	89,722	24	—	24	—	24	168	62	230	254
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	19,668	756	20,424	—	20,424	4,043	338	4,381	24,805
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	25,590	2,420	28,010	—	28,010	5,611	267	5,878	(*b*)33,888
7	Aundh	447	65,146	911	176	1,087	—	1,087	136	35	171	1,258
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,762	-	1,762	—	1,762	—	132	132	1,894
9	Jath	979	71,443	7,495	5,013	12,508	—	12,508	384	87	471	12,979
10	Daphlapur		8,343	214	47	261	—	261	—	—	—	261
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	2,300	938	3,238	—	3,238	—	—	—	3,238
12	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	1,035	619	1,654	—	1,654	—	—	—	1,654
13	Sangli	1,093	238,945	9,622	3,860	13,482	—	13,482	468	50	518	14,000
14	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	1,296	254	1,550	—	1,550	—	457	457	2,007
15	Akalkot	498	75,774	5,779	2,583	8,362	—	8,362	145	1,896	2,041	10,403
16	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,380	—	1,380	—	1,380	—	—	—	1,380
17	Phaltan	397	56,383	494	106	600	—	600	—	15	15	615
18	Dharampore	794	120,498	1,521	—	1,521	—	1,521	244	—	244	1,765
19	Ramdurg	169	36,181	879	83	962	—	962	—	116	116	1,078
20	Bansda	215	41,373	1,086	—	1,086	—	1,086	523	—	523	(*a*)1,609
21	Kurundvad (Senior) ..	174	43,809	365	33	398	—	398	—	828	828	1,226
	Total Bombay Native States.	52,783	7,319,974	344,982	63,640	408,622	—	408,622	54,457	14,442	68,899	477,521
	Punjab Native States.											
1	Jindh	1,268	284,560	304	—	304	—	304	—	2,522	2,522	2,826
2	Pataudi	53	19,002	755	—	755	—	755	—	441	441	1,196
3	Dujana	89	26,450	228	—	228	—	228	—	158	158	386
4	Loharu	226	20,139	99	—	99	—	99	—	7	7	106
5	Nabha	936	282,756	566	—	566	—	566	—	1,758	1,758	2,324
6	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	22,020	—	22,020	—	22,020	—	12,505	12,505	34,525
7	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	2,710	—	2,710	—	2,710	—	—	—	2,710
	Total Punjab Native States.	25,808	2,866,470	26,682	—	26,682	—	26,682	—	17,391	17,391	44 073

* Return not received; previous week's figures have been repeated.
‖ Includes dependants.
¶ Figures are for the week ending 14th July, 1900.
(*a*) Numbers on last day of week: in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
(*b*) Figures for week ending 14th July, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH JULY, 1900—*concluded*.

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			Grand Total.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central Provinces Feudatory States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	1,729	—	1,729	—	1,729	—	14,469	14,469	16,198
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,525	1,285	—	1,285	—	1,285	—	2,798	2,798	4,083
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	1,458	—	1,458	—	1,458	—	852	852	2,310
4	Khairagarh	931	181,184	1,320	—	1,320	—	1,320	—	3,532	3,532	4,852
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	1,409	—	1,409	—	1,409	—	2,936	2,936	4,345
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	212	—	212	—	212	—	2,981	2,981	3,193
7	Kawarda	798	91,813	147	—	147	—	147	—	1,535	1,535	1,682
8	Sakti	138	25,374	145	-	145	-	145	—	209	209	354
9	Bastar	13,062	310,884	1,892	—	1,892	—	1,892	—	9,245	9,245	11,137
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	3,562	—	3,562	—	3,562	—	1,510	1,510	5,072
11	Chhuikhadan	154	36,288	111	—	111	—	111	—	444	444	555
12	Bamra	1,988	104,367	3,754	—	3,754	—	3,754	—	—	—	3,754
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	24,702	1,795,332	17,024	—	17,024	—	17,024	—	40,511	40,511	57,535
	Kashmir (Jammu) ..	7,917	1,088,676	—	—	—	264	264	—	—	—	—
	Total Native States ..	406,528	48,841,308	1,190,920	91,757	1,282,677	1,940	1,284,617	149,482	306,482	455,964	1,740,581
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	652,384	87,512,435	3,069,097	447,423	3,516,520	14,240	3,530,760	1,746,480	972,597	2,719,077	6,249,837

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900.

	Madras.											
1	Kistna	8,397	1,855,582	—	—	—	1,825	1,825	—	—	—	1,825
2	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	1,072	1,072	--	3,100	3,100	4,172
	Total Madras ..	17,119	3,127,654	—	—	-	2,897	2,897	--	3,100	3,100	5,997
	Bombay and Sindh.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	70,190	21,321	91,511	—	91,511	5,387	65,078	70,465	161,976
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	74,856	7,736	82,592	--	82,592	1,367	113,672	115,039	197,631
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	42,739	3,632	46,371	—	46,371	3,613	72,978	76,591	122,962
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	23,986	4,201	28,187	—	28,187	1,615	73,231	74,846	103,033
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	573	33,453	34,026	34,026
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	142	99	241	—	241	311	1,363	1,674	1,915
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	81,827	22,561	104,388	—	104,388	5,257	19,578	24,835	129,223
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	153,326	36,920	190,246	—	190,246	1,373	25,323	26,696	216,942
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	35,107	9,537	44,644	—	44,644	1,143	25,869	27,012	71,656
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	105,436	30,657	136,093	—	136,093	11,631	28,249	39,880	175,973
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	59,008	17,504	76,512	—	76,512	2,642	7,863	10,505	87,017
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	26,354	5,594	31,948	—	31,948	1,086	13,629	14,715	46,663
13	Bijapur	5,868	796,339	6,671	1,841	8,512	—	8,512	649	2,425	3,074	11,586
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	998	319	1,317	—	1,317	—	812	812	2,129
15	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	298,203	193	18	211	—	211	897	748	1,645	1,856*
	Total Bombay and Sindh.	75,318	12,263,246	680,833	161,940	842,773	—	842,773	37,544	484,271	521,815	1,364,588†
	Bengal.											
1	Ranchi	7,140	1,128,885	11,783	—	11,783	834	12,617	5,468	399	5,867	18,484‡
2	Palamau	4,905	596,770	92	—	92	431	523	1,297	—	1,297	1,820
	Total Bengal ..	12,045	1,725,655	11,875	—	11,875	1,265	13,140	6,765	399	7,164	20,304

* Figures for week ending 11th August, 1900.
† Daily averages of the week.
‡ Figures incomplete.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	N.-W. P. and Oudh.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Muttra	1,441	382,660	—	—	—	—	—	134	—	134	134
2	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	48	—	48	48
3	Jhansi	1,640	914,528	—	—	—	—	—	227	786	1,013	1,013
	Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.	4,926	1,837,647	—	—	—	—	—	409	786	1,195	1,195
	Punjab.											
1	Hissar	5,217	776,006	24,770	12,295	37,065	—	37,065	1,355	27,686	29,041	66,106
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	28,328	3,201	31,529	—	31,529	230	7,042	7,272	38,801
3	Gurgaon*	1,984	668,929	6,943	2,047	8,990	—	8,990	542	4,426	4,968	13,958
4	Karnal	2,406	683,718	2,029	783	2,812	—	2,812	—	1,986	1,986	4,798
	Total Punjab ..	11,404	2,719,128	62,070	18,326	80,396	—	80,396	2,127	41,140	43,267	123,663
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	4,608	273	4,881	—	4,881	56,497	19,076	75,573	80,454
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	50	—	50	—	50	38,892	3,293	42,185	42,235
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	6,444	106	6,550	—	6,550	33,426	9,507	42,933	49,483
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	15,416	—	15,416	—	15,416	26,873	4,445	31,318	46,734
5	Seoni	3,198	370,767	2,694	520	3,214	—	3,214	19,154	2,761	21,915	25,129
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	—	—	—	—	—	4,803	2,026	6,829	6,829
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	10,925	2,262	13,187	—	13,187	64,877	7,005	71,882	85,069
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	3,430	935	4,365	—	4,365	67,527	13,066	80,593	84,958
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	32,082	1,596	33,678	—	33,678	77,147	25,552	102,699	136,377
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	11,077	2,008	13,085	—	13,085	36,520	2,487	39,007	52,092
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	11,254	1,998	13,252	—	13,252	49,179	7,665	56,844	70,096
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	3,570	533	4,103	—	4,103	62,049	36,175	98,224	102,327
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	32,922	5,712	38,634	—	38,634	150,529	29,232	179,761	218,395
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	18,438	2,682	21,120	—	21,120	75,684	33,810	109,494	130,614
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	11,226	974	12,200	—	12,200	84,193	36,864	121,057	133,257
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	16,695	3,316	20,011	—	20,011	649,636	15,483	665,119	685,130
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	27,878	5,274	33,152	—	33,152	143,149	22,269	165,418	198,570
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	5,857	989	6,846	—	6,846	84,941	2,221	87,162	93,808
	Total Central Provinces.	86,542	10,784,294	214,366	29,178	243,544	—	243,544	1,725,076	272,937	1,998,013	2,241,557
	Berar.											
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	20,973	3,192	24,165	—	24,165	21,708	4,897	26,605	50,770
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	45,614	4,100	49,714	—	49,714	29,106	10,777	39,883	89,597†
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	51,402	6,197	57,599	—	57,599	25,187	6,092	31,279	88,878
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	18,186	1,453	19,639	—	19,639	14,473	1,365	15,838	35,477
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	2,152	1,064	3,216	—	3,216	4,710	2,454	7,164	10,380
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	5,745	635	6,380	—	6,380	12,409	14,747‡	27,156	33,536
	Total Berar ..	17,717	2,897,040	144,072	16,641	160,713	—	160,713	107,593	40,332	147,925	308,638
	Ajmer-Merwara.											
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	3,440	934	4,374	—	4,374	10,506	917	11,423	15,797
2	Merwara	641	119,999	37,975	6,068	44,043	—	44,043	12,241	3,340	15,581	* 59,624
	Total Ajmer-Merwara	2,711	542,358	41,415	7,002	48,417	—	48,417	22,747	4,257	27,004	75,421
	Total British Provinces	227,782	35,897,022	1,154,631	233,087	1,387,718	4,162	1,391,880	1,902,261	847,222	2,749,483	4,141,363

* Rewari Phulera Railway relief work in the Gurgaon District closed.
† Figures incomplete.
‡ Includes 950 persons employed on weaving.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900—*continued.*

No	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Rajputana States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	13,988	650	14,638	—	14,638	12,278	1,066	13,344	27,982
2	Tonk	2,552	380,069	1,407	—	1,407	—	1,407	1,545	—	1,545	2,952
3	Bundi	2,220	295,675	1,176	—	1,176	—	1,176	1,737	—	1,737	2,913
4	Bharatpur	1,982	640,303	4,310	—	4,310	—	4,310	162	—	162	4,472
5	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	1,545	26	1,571	—	1,571	3,868	—	3,868	5,439
6	Shahpura	405	89,873	—	—	—	—	—	223	—	223	223
7	Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701	554	59	613	—	613	40	179	219	832
8	Alwar	3,144	767,786	5,095	225	5,320	—	5,320	74	3,073	3,147	8,467
9	Meywar	11,203	1,792,126	54,324*	—	54,324	—	54,324	—	12,627*	12,627	66,951
10	Kherwara } Hilly tracts of Mewar	900	50,000	408	—	408	—	408	632	—	632	1,040
11	Kotra }	650	21,000	428	—	428	—	428	287	719	1,006	1,434
12	Sirohi	1,964	190,836	105	6	111	—	111	1,186	815	2,001	2,112
13	Kishangarh	858	125,516	2,662	41	2,703	—	2,703	1,651	8,843	10,494	13,197
14	Jaipur	15,579	2,323,966	26,230	4,940	31,170	—	31,170	3,551	18,020	21,571	52,741†
15	Jhalawar	2,722	343,583	2,019	—	2,019	—	2,019	1,647	350	1,997	4,016
16	Kotah	3,784	526,267	10,772	—	10,772	—	10,772	8,127	6,671	14,798	25,570
17	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	159	—	159	—	159	1,574	—	1,574	1,733
18	Banswara	1,946	211,641	100	—	100	—	100	725	—	725	825
19	Kushalgarh	1,232	31,000	—	—	—	—	—	126	—	126	126
20	Partabgarh	886	87,975	298	—	298	—	298	256	—	256	554
	Total Rajputana States	126,839	12,018,838	125,580	5,947	131,527	—	131,527	39,689	52,363	92,052	223,579
	Central India States.											
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	7,897	285	8,182	—	8,182	898	—	898	9,080
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	8,746	—	8,746	—	8,746	10,098	1,683	11,781	20,527
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	181	—	181	—	181	283	96	379	560‡
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	—	—	—	—	—	—	239	239	239
5	Bagli		14,675	2,958	411	3,369	—	3,369	—	—	—	3,369
6	Pathari (Indore) ..	‖	‖	529	287	816	—	816	85	12	97	913
7	Karaudia..	‖	‖	155	50	205	—	205	43	—	43	248
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	9,213	1,822	11,035	185	11,220	5,451	50	5,501	16,721
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	408	—	408	—	408	506	602	1,108	1,516
10	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	1,010	88	1,098	—	1,098	1,253	—	1,253	2,351
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	106	—	106	—	106	172	—	172	278
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	258	—	258	—	258	315	309	624	882
13	Maksudangarh ..	81	14,422	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	Pathari (Bhopal) ..	29	4,816	—	—	—	—	—	58	—	58	58
15	Muhammadgarh ..	29	4,720	30	—	30	200	230	25	—	25	255
16	Basoda	40	6,710	30	—	30	65	95	36	—	36	131
17	Sutalia Jagir	54	15,081	—	—	—	—	—	12	18	30	30
18	Yusuf Mohamed Khan's Jagir.	9	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	Orchha	2,079	333,020	257	37	294	—	294	162	187	349	643‡
21	Datia	912	186,440	74	—	74	—	74	24	166	190	264
22	Panna	2,492	239,333	316	374	690	—	690	86	41	127	(a) 817
23	Bijawar	965	123,414	24	—	24	—	24	—	—	—	(b) 24
24	Ajaigarh	771	93,048	)								
25	Gaurihar	73	10,148	) ¶								

* Details of these figures are not available.
† Figures incomplete.
‡ Return not received; previous week's figures have been included.
§ Included in Gwalior.
‖ Not known.
¶ Returns not received.
(a) Figures for week ending 28th July, 1900.
(b) Figures for week ending 7th July, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			Grand Total.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
26	Samthar	178	40,541	446	—	446	—	446	—	224	224	670
27	Rewah	12,676	1,509,454	370	—	370	—	370	1,165	—	1,165	1,535
28	Nagode	501	84,097	810	28	838	—	838	242	51	293	1,131
29	Maihar	406	77,546	50	—	50	—	50	48	95	143	193
30	Jaora	581	117,650	2,643	742	3,385	—	3,385	1,029	74	1,103	4,488
31	Rutlam	720	89,160	338	—	338	—	338	750	1	751	1,089
32	Sailana	125	31,512	43	—	43	—	43	57	13	70	113
33	Sitamau	350	33,307	400	—	400	—	400	345	100	445	845
34	Piploda	60	12,814	—	—	—	—	—	65	—	65	65
35	Dhar	1,739	167,504	6,977	927	7,904	—	7,904	1,434	107	1,541	9,445
36	Barwani	1,362	80,264	2,566	54	2,620	—	2,620	1,695	346	2,041	4,661
37	Alirajpur..	836	70,091	904	25	929	—	929	641	—	641	1,570
38	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	3,772	—	3,772	—	3,772	289	211	500	4,272
39	Jobat	132	14,336	123	—	123	—	123	300	50	350	473
40	Nimkhera	50	4,600	208	—	208	—	208	127	—	127	335
41	Bagode (Dewas) ..	75	8,000	194	—	194	—	194	67	75	142	336
42	Manpur (British) ..	71	5,000	200	—	200	—	200	12	—	12	212*
	Total Central India States.	76,100	9,599,142	52,236	5,130	57,366	450	57,816	27,773	4,750	32,523	90,339
1	Hyderabad	82,698	11,537,040	330,379†	—	330,379	—	330,379	—	98,294	98,294	428,673
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	55,663	—	55,663	—	55,663	—	20,941	20,941	76,604‡
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	78,667	14,500	93,167	—	93,167	25,000	9,000	34,000	127,167
2	Palanpur..	7,775	645,526	31,115	11,625	42,740	—	42,740	6,431	197	6,628	49,368
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	14,704	—	14,704	—	14,704	1,777	—	1,777	16,481 (*c*) §
4	Cambay	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	152	160	312	312
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	7,704	129	7,833	—	7,833	3,405	498	3,903	11,736
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	9,716	1,405	11,121	—	11,121	3,773	34	3,807	14,928
7	Aundh	447	65,146	192	6	198	—	198	65	11	76	274
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,842	1,419	4,261	—	4,261	—	148	148	4,409
9	Jath	979	71,443	5,878	3,035	8,913	—	8,913	428	96	524	9,437
10	Dathlapur		8,343	203	55	258	—	258	—	—	—	258
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	2,356	1,149	3,505	—	3,505	—	—	—	3,505‡
12	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	164	55	219	—	219	—	—	—	219
13	Sangli	1,083	238,945	5,351	1,615	6,966	—	6,966	504	37	541	7,507
14	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	334	—	334	—	334	—	541	541	875
15	Akalkot	498	75,774	3,081	819	3,900	—	3,900	132	1,806	1,938	5,838
16	Mudhol	361	61,815	452	4	456	—	456	—	—	—	456
17	Phaltan	397	56,383	484	85	569	—	569	—	5	5	574
18	Dharampore	794	120,498	86	—	86	—	86	200	—	200	286
19	Ramdurg..	169	36,181	650	59	709	—	709	—	—	—	709
20	Bansda	215	41,373	611	—	611	—	611	335	—	335	946§
21	Kurundvad (Senior) ..	174	43,809	44	—	44	—	44	—	268	268	321
	Total Bombay Native States.	52,783	7,319,974	164,634	35,960	200,594	—	200,594	42,202	12,801	55,003	255,597

* Return not received ; previous week's figures have been included.
† Includes dependants.
‡ Figures for week ending 11th August, 1900.
§ Numbers on last day of week ; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
(*c*) Figures for week ending 4th August, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH AUGUST, 1900—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Punjab Native States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Jindh	1,268	284,560	406	—	406	—	406	—	563	563	969
2	Pataudi	53	19,002	534	—	534	—	534	—	438	438	972
3	Dujand	89	26,450	193	—	193	—	193	—	304	304	497
4	Loharu	226	20,139	51	—	51	—	51	—	21	21	72
5	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	15,376	—	15,376	—	15,376	—	11,909	11,909	27,285
6	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	1,044	—	1,044	—	1,044	—	—	—	1,044
	Total Punjab Native States.	24,872	2,583,714	17,604	—	17,604	—	17,604	—	13,235	13,235	30,839
	Central Provinces Feudatory States.											
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	1,400		1,400	—	1,400	—	6,609	6,609	8,009
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,525	637	—	637	—	637	—	2,938	2,938	3,575
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	1,092	—	1,092	—	1,092	—	724	724	1,816
4	Khairagarh	931	181,184	1,093	—	1,093	—	1,093	—	4,891	4,891	5,984
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	844	—	844	—	844	—	2,441	2,441	3,285
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	23	—	23	—	23	—	2,913	2,913	2,936
7	Kawarda..	798	91,813	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,531	1,531	1,531
8	Sakti	138	25,374	431	—	431	—	431	—	133	133	564
9	Bastar	13,002	310,884	1,353	—	1,353	—	1,353	—	8,878	8,878	10,231
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	265	—	265	—	265	—	2,944	2,944	3,209
11	Chhuikadan	154	36,288	—	—	—	—	—	—	392	392	392
12	Bamra	1,988	104,367	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,042	2,042	2,042
13	Kalahandi	3,745	326,295	—	—	—	—	—	—	571	571	571
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	28,387	2,121,627	7,138	—	7,138	—	7,138	—	37,007	37,007	44,145
	Kashmir (Jammu) ..	7,917	1,088,676	—	—	—	134	134	—	—	—	134
	Total Native States	407,822	48,684,407	753,234	47,037	800,271	584	800,855	109,664	239,391	349,055	1,149,910
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	635,604	84,581,429	1,907,865	280,124	2,187,989	4,746	2,192,735	2,011,925	1,086,613	3,098,538	5,291,273

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900.

	Madras.											
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	--	—	—	—	—	2,930	2,930	2,930
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,930	2,930	2,930
	Bombay and Sindh.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	23,665	5,989	29,654	--	29,654	4,831	76,330	81,161	110,815
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	13,327	1,704	15,031	—	15,031	1,188	88,571	89,759	104,790
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	8,455	868	9,323	—	9,323	1,543	65,685	67,228	76,551
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	10,989	1,992	12,981	—	12,981	954	59,212	60,166	73,147
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	354*	11,364	11,718	11,718
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	211	97	308	—	308	359	3,970	4,329	4,637
7	Sholapur..	4,542	750,689	58,395	11,634	70,029	—	70,029	3,345	16,540	19,885	89,914
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	113,328	29,335	143,663	—	143,663	894	25,488	26,382	170,045
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	37,004	9,050	46,054	—	46,054	923	25,828	26,751	72,805

* Figures for week ending 15th September, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay and Sidgh—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	48,586	14,407	62,993	—	62,993	8,615	63,762	72,377	135,370
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	59,034	16,715	75,749	—	75,749	2,793	10,423	13,216	88,965
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	11,068	2,421	13,489	—	13,489	779	16,916	17,695	31,184
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	4,522	1,095	5,617	—	5,617	853	1,854	2,707	8,324
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	—	—	—	982	982	982
15	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	298,203	—	—	—	—	—	246	351	597	597*
	Total Bombay and Sindh.	75,318	12,263,246	389,084	95,807	484,891	—	484,891	27,677	467,276	494,953	979,844†
	N.-W. P. and Oudh.											
1	Agra	1,845	540,459	—	—	—	—	—	38‡	—	38	38
2	Jhansi	1,640	914,528	—	—	—	—	—	121	—	121	121
	Total N.-W. P. and Oudh.	3,485	1,454,987	—	—	—	—	—	159	—	159	159
	Punjab.											
1	Hissar	5,217	776,006	973	334	1,307	—	1,307	177	14,485	14,662	15,969
2	Rohtak	1,797	590,475	—	—	—	—	—	9	6,043	6,052	6,052
3	Gurgaon	1,984	668,929	878	507	1,385	—	1,385	331	4,353	4,684	6,069
4	Karnal	2,406	683,718	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,378	1,378	1,378
	Total Punjab ..	11,404	2,719,128	1,851	841	2,692	—	2,692	517	26,259	26,776	29,468
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	3,605	181	3,786	—	3,786	27,427	10,032	37,459	41,245
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	—	—	—	—	—	21,818	3,466	25,284	25,284
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	1,640	30	1,670	—	1,670	19.177	1,010	20,187	21,857
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	2,094	—	2,094	—	2,094	12,696	12,670	25,366	27,460
5	Seoni	3,198	370,767	1.166	230	1,396	—	1,396	4,141	928	5,069	6,465
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	—	—	—	—	—	1,100	1,241	2,341	2,341
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	1,287	124	1,411	—	1,411	26,071	6,479	32,550	33,961
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	1,597	412	2,009	—	2,009	20,619	10,407	31,026	33,035
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	15,959	227	16,186	—	16,186	41,827	24,797	66,624	82,810
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	4,169	814	4,983	—	4,983	16,934	4,791	21,725	26,708
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	11,975	1,330	13,305	—	13,305	33,415	11,251	44,666	57,971
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	2,401	332	2,733	—	2,733	39,143	36,050	75,193	77,926
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	15,182	2,726	17,908	—	17,908	119,438	75,903	195,341	213,249
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	14,778	1,483	16,261	—	16,261	47,478	32,599	80,077	96,338
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	15,082	810	15,892	—	15,892	56,591	36,430	93,021	108,913
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	10,183	2,234	12,417	—	12,417	400,824	12,422	413,246	425,663
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	10,062	2,861	12,923	—	12,923	89,396	19,090	108,486	121,409
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	530	—	530	—	530	40,130	2,332	42,462	42,992
	Total Central Provinces	86,542	10,784,294	111,710	13,794	125,504	—	125,504	1,018,225	301,898	1,320,123	1,445,627

* Figures for week ending 15th September, 1900.
† Daily averages of the week.
‡ Poor-house closed.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Berar.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	17,554	685	18,239	—	18,239	22,737	3,588	26,325	44,564
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	16,378	3,858	20,236	—	20,236	26,528	15,749	42,277	62,513
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	20,667	2,010	22,677	—	22,677	22,613	5,292	27,905	50,582
4	Amraoti	2.759	655,645	5,965	270	6,235	—	6,235	9,614	377	9,991	16,226
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	—	—	—	—	—	3,859	782	4,641	4,641
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	2,178	—	2,178	—	2,178	6,669	4,616*	11,285	13,463
	Total Berar ..	17,717	2,897,040	62,742	6,823	69,565	—	69,565	92,020	30,404	122,424	191,989
	Ajmer-Merwara.											
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	514	—	514	—	514	3,885	511	4,396	4,910
2	Merwara..	641	119,999	11,298	1,298	12,596	—	12,596	8,820	2,064	10,884	23,480
	Total Ajmer-Merwara	2,711	542,358	11,812	1,298	13,110	—	13,110	12,705	2,575	15,280	28,390
	Total British Provinces	205,899	31,933,125	577,199	118,563	695,762	—	695,762	1,151,303	831,342	1,982,645	2,678,407
	Rajputana States.											
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	—	—	—	—	—	3,601	—	3,601	3,601
2	Tonk	2,552	380,069	307	—	307	—	307	336	—	336	643
3	Bundi	2,220	295,675	729	—	729	—	729	1,716	—	1,716	2,445
4	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	1,096	—	1,096	—	1,096	2,339	—	2,339	3,435
5	Shahpura	405	89,873	—	—	—	—	—	145	—	145	145
6	Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701	—	—	—	—	—	12	188	200	200
7	Alwar	3,144	767,786	—	—	—	—	—	2,764	—	2,764	2,764
8	Meywar	11,203	1,792,126	3,520	—	3,520	—	3,520	1,750	—	1,750	5,270
9	Kherwara (Hill tracts of Mewar.)	900	50,000	214	—	214	—	214	295	65	360	574
10	Kotra (Hill tracts of Mewar.)	650	21,000	70	—	70	—	70	116	542	658	728
11	Sirohi	1,964	190,836	—	—	—	—	—	126	203	329	329
12	Jaipur	15,579	2,823,966	5,576	—	5,576	—	5,576	1,215	797	2,012	7,588
13	Jhalawar..	2,722	343,583	829	—	829	—	829	694	—	694	1,523
14	Kotah	3,784	526,267	4,472	—	4,472	—	4,472	3,945	33,819	37,764	42,236
15	Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	—	—	—	—	—	90	—	90	90
16	Banswara	1,946	211,641	—	—	—	—	—	525	—	525	525
17	Kushalgarh	1,232	31,000	—	—	—	—	—	40	—	40	40
18	Partabgarh	886	87,975	225	—	225	—	225	43	—	43	268
	Total Rajputana States	123,999	11,253,019	17,038	—	17,038	—	17,038	19,752	35,614	55,366	72,404
	Central India States.											
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	—	—	—	—	—	2,273	—	2,273	2,273
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	4,947	—	4,947	—	4,947	12,833	849	13,682	18,629
3	Dewas S. B.	155	77,922	—	—	—	—	—	302	—	302	302
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	54	54
5	Bagli	†	14,075	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	Pathari (Indore) ..	‡	‡	§								
7	Karaudia	‡	‡	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	12	12

* Includes 20 persons employed on weaving
† Included in Gwalior,
‡ Not known.
§ Return not received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			Grand Total.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
8	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	4,462	891	5,353	59	5,412	7,156	51	7,207	12,619
9	Rajgarh	642	119,489	320	—	320	—	320	636	—	636	956
10	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	—	—	—	—	—	638	—	638	638
11	Khilchipur	273	36,302	117	—	117	—	117	151	—	151	268
12	Kurwai	145	21,787	213	—	213	—	213	77	—	77	290
13	Basoda	40	6,710	15	—	15		15	45	—	45	60
14	Sironj Pargana of Tonk	907	93,000	227	—	227	—	227	—	—	—	227
15	Orchha	2,079	333,020	172	23	195	—	195	187	175	362	557
16	Datia	912	186,440	74	—	74	—	74	24	166	190	(c) 264
17	Panna	2,492	239,333	316	374	690	-	690	86	41	127	(a) 817
18	Bijawar	965	123,414	24	—	24	—	24	—	—	—	(b) 24
19	Ajaigarh	771	93,048	*								
20	Gaurihar..	73	10,148									
21	Samthar	178	40,541	446	—	446	—	446	—	224	224	(c) 670
22	Rewah	12,676	1,509,454	507	—	507	—	507	2,396	—	2,396	2,903
23	Nagode	501	84,097	—	—	—	—	—	50	41	91	91
24	Maihar	406	77,546	55	—	55	—	55	22	—	22	77
25	Jaora	581	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	355	35	390	390
26	Rutlam	720	89,160	50	—	50	—	50	255	—	255	305
27	Sailana	125	31,512	—	—	—	—	—	108	—	108	108
28	Sitamau	350	33,307	230	* —	230	—	230	50	100	150	380
29	Piploda	60	12,814	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	18	18
30	Dhar	1,739	167,504	191	25	216	—	216	1,424	38	1,462	1,678
31	Barwani	1,362	80,264	1,306	—	1,306	—	1,306	466	255	721	2,027
32	Alirajpur	836	70,091	126	40	166	—	166	270	—	270	436
33	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	—	—	—	—	—	66	16	82	82
34	Jobat	132	14,336	38	—	38	—	38	50	150	200	238
35	Nimkhera	50	4,600	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	23	23
36	Bagode (Dewas) ..	75	8,000	26	38	64	—	64	51	25	76	140
37	Manpur (British) ..	71	5,000	32	—	32	—	32	12	—	12	44
	Total Central India States.	75,898	9,569,103	13,894	1,391	15,285	59	15,344	30,036	2,220	32,256	47,600
1	Hyderabad	82,698	11,537,040	103,815†	—	103,815	—	103,815	—	64,871	64,871	168,686
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	22,125	—	22,125	—	22,125	—	27,639	27,639	49,764‡
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	42,500	4,500	47,000	—	47,000	12,000	3,857	15,857	62,857
2	Palanpur..	7,775	645,526	2,157	684	2,841	—	2,841	2,422	305	2,727	5,568
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	778	—	778	—	778	10	—	10	788¶
4	Cambay	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	108	174	282	282
5	Kewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	2,766	68	2,834	—	2,834	1,812	592	2,404	5,238
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	5,417	885	6,302	—	6,302	2,237	85	2,322	8,624‡
7	Aundh	447	65,146	243	7	250	—	250	19	10	29	279
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,218	1,330	3,548	—	3,548	—	132	132	3,680
9	Jath	979	71,443	5,388	2,414	7,802	—	7,802	450	96	546	8,348
10	Daphlapur		8,343	197	54	251	—	251	—	—	—	251

* Return not received
† Includes dependants,
‡ Figures for week ending 15th September, 1900.
¶ Numbers on last day of week ; in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
(a) Figures for week ending 28th July, 1900.
(b) Figures for week ending 7th July, 1900.
(c) Figures for week ending 18th August, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1900—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Provinces and Districts.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay Native States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
11	Miraj (Senior)	339	88,343	182	77	259	—	259	—	—	—	259
12	Sangli	1,083	238,945	3,219	1,215	4,434	—	4,434	302	43	345	4,779
13	Kolhapur	2,855	913,131	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
14	Akalkot	498	75,774	1,736	46	1,782	—	1,782	116	1,447	1,563	3,345
15	Mudhol	361	61,815	616	4	620	—	620	—	—	—	620
16	Phaltan	397	66,383	245	10	255	—	255	—	3	3	258
17	Dharampore	794	120,498	117	—	117	—	117	370	—	370	487
18	Bansda	215	41,373	195	—	195	—	195	129	—	129	324*
	Total Bombay Native States.	52,215	7,214,497	67,974	11,294	79,268	—	79,268	19,975	6,746	26,721	105,989
	Punjab Native States.											
1	Jindh	1,268	284,560	206	—	206	—	206	—	306	306	512
2	Pataudi	53	19,002	—	—	—	—	—	—	456	456	456†
3	Dujana	89	26,450	—	—	—	—	—	—	296	296	296†
4	Loharu	226	20,139	—	—	—	—	—	—	231	231	231†
5	Nabha	936	282,756	104	—	104	—	104	—	126	126	230
6	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	3,829	—	3,829	—	3,829	—	6,670	6,670	10,499
7	Bahawalpur	17,285	650,042	268	—	268	—	268	—	—	—	268
	Total Punjab Native States.	25,808	2,866,470	4,407	—	4,407	—	4,407	—	8,085	8,085	12,492
	Central Provinces Feudatory States.											
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	1,123	—	1,123	—	1,123	—	5,124	5,124	6,247
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,525	—	—	—	—	—	—	778	778	778
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	870	—	870	—	870	—	557	557	1,427
4	Khairagarh	931	181,184	853	—	853	—	853	—	3,113	3,113	3,966
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	321	—	321	—	321	—	976	976	1,297
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	14	—	14	—	14	—	2,690	2,690	2,704
7	Kawarda..	798	91,813	—	—	—	—	—	—	609	609	609
8	Sakti	138	25,374	—	—	—	—	—	—	110	110	110
9	Bastar	13,002	310,884	626	—	626	—	626	—	6,392	6,392	7,018
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	265	—	265	—	265	—	2,848	2,848	3,113
11	Chhuikhadan	154	36,288	—	—	—	—	—	—	458	458	458
12	Kalahandi	3,745	326,295	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	50	50
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	26,399	2,017,260	4,072	—	4,072	—	4,072	—	23,705	23,705	27,777
	Total Native States	395,243	46,872,785	233,325	12,685	246,010	59	246,069	69,763	168,880	238,643	484,712
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	601,142	78,805,910	810,524	131,248	941,772	59	941,831	1,221,066	1,000,222	2,221,288	3,163,119

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1900.

	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	4,586	1,258	5,844	—	5,844	1,496	17,655	19,151	24,995
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	3,984	343	4,327	—	4,327	474	59,254	59,728	64,055
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	2,404	205	2,609	—	2,609	662	26,429	27,091	29,700
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	5,770	793	6,572	—	6,572	383	52,544	52,927	59,499
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	206	6,825	7,031	7,031
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	10	1,385	1,395	1,395
7	Sholapur..	4,542	750,689	41,938	9,869	51,807	—	51,807	2,587	13,576	16,163	67,970

* Numbers on last day of week : in all other States they are daily averages of the week.
† Figures not reported, hence last week's figures have been repeated.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	39,863	10,987	50,850	—	50,850	439	23,679	24,118	74,968
9	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	21,231	5,480	26,711	—	26,711	107	22,371	22,478	49,189
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	8,550	3,731	12,281	—	12,281	4,005	40,598	44,603	56,884
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	27,133	7,649	34,782	—	34,782	1,266	7,019	8,285	43,067
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	5,506	707	6,213	—	6,213	70	7,999	8,069	14,282
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	3,186	749	3,935	—	3,935	954	1,574	2,528	6,463
14	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,061	1,061	1,061
	Total Bombay ..	62,589	11,965,043	164,160	41,771	205,931	—	205,931	12,659	281,969	294,628	500,559
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	1,527	91	1,618	—	1,618	12,171	6,202	18,373	19,991
2	Damoh	2,881	325,613	—	—	—	—	—	2,430	558	2,988	2,988
3	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	—	—	—	—	—	4,899	171	5,070	5,070
4	Mandla	5,047	339,373	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Seoni	3,198	370,767	—	—	—	—	—	470	240	710	710
6	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	—	—	—	—	—	104	106	210	210
7	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	—	—	—	—	—	4,462	3,274	7,736	7,736
8	Nimar	3,357	253,486	—	—	—	—	—	4,726	7,378	12,104	12,104
9	Betul	3,824	323,196	—	—	—	—	—	13,505	6,493	19,998	19,998
10	Chhindwara	4,630	407,494	—	—	—	—	—	71	2,596	2,667	2,667
11	Wardha	2,428	400,854	1,623	292	1,915	—	1,915	23,879	8,664	32,543	34,458
12	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	—	—	—	—	—	15,569	10,427	25,996	25,996
13	Chanda	10,749	697,610	4,431	724	5,155	—	5,155	49,241	50,100	99,341	104,496
14	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	928	—	928	—	928	21,648	12,260	33,908	34,836
15	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	19,980	10,773	30,753	30,753
16	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	138	—	138	—	138	238,335	11,482	249,817	249,955
17	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,153	2,056	669	2,725	—	2,725	37,817	11,008	48,825	51,550
18	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	—	—	—	—	—	20,009	1,027	21,036	21,036
	Total Central Provinces	86,542	10,784,294	10,703	1,776	12,479	—	12,479	469,316	142,759	612,075	624,554
	Berar.											
1	Akola	2,659	574,782	9,001	—	9,001	—	9,001	13,049	2,259	15,308	24,309
2	Basim	2,956	398,181	6,575	1,226	7,801	—	7,801	22,981	18,540	41,521	49,322
3	Buldana	2,809	481,021	10,355	498	10,853	—	10,853	16,835	4,791	21,626	32,479
4	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	1,184	17	1,201	—	1,201	9,745	285	10,030	11,231
5	Wun	3,911	471,613	—	—	—	—	—	2,665	—	2,665	2,665
6	Ellichpur	2,623	315,798	1,744	—	1,744	—	1,744	7,258	2,748	10,006	11,750
	Total Berar ..	17,717	2,897,040	28,859	1,741	30,600	—	30,600	72,533	28,623	101,156	131,756
	Ajmer-Merwara.											
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	—	—	—	—	—	626	—	626	626
2	Merwara	641	119,999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total Ajmer-Merwara	2,711	542,358	—	—	—	—	—	626	—	626	626
	Total British Provinces	169,559	26,188,735	203,722	45,288	249,010	—	249,010	555,134	453,351	1,008,485	1,257,495

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Rajputana States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	—	—	—	—	—	1,368	—	1,368	1,368
2	Bundi	2,220	295,675	437	—	437	—	437	270	—	270	707
3	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	264	—	264	—	264	242	—	242	506
4	Mewar	11,203	1,792,126	2,108	—	2,108	—	2,108	—	185	185	2,293
5	Jhalawar..	2,722	343,583	264	—	264	—	264	53	—	53	317
6	Kotah	3,784	526,267	3,865	—	3,865	—	3,865	1,396	364	1,760	5,625
	Total Rajputana States.	77,232	6,317,772	6,938	—	6,938	—	6,938	3,329	549	3,878	10,816
	Central India States.											
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	—	—	—	—	—	522	—	522	522
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	1,708	—	1,708	—	1,708	7,560	190	7,750	9,458
3	Dewas, S. B.	155	77,922	—	—	—	—	—	43	33	76	76
4	Dewas, J. B.	134	65,723	—	—	—	—	—	—	79	79	79
5	Karaudia..	*	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	10
6	Bhopal	6,996	952,486									
7	Rajgarh	642	119,489									
8	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	3,699	—	3,699	—	3,699	—	2,018	2,018	5,717§
9	Khilchipur	273	36,302									
10	Pathari	29	4,816									
11	Orchha	2,079	333,020	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
12	Rewah	12,676	1,509,454	453	—	453	—	453	819	—	819	1,272
13	Nagode	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
14	Maihar	406	77,546	82	—	82	—	82	22	—	22	104
15	Jaora	581	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	139	34	173	173
16	Sailana	125	31,512	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	23	23
17	Piploda	60	12,814	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	12	12
18	Dhar	1,739	187,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
19	Barwani	1,362	80,264	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
20	Alirajpur..	836	70,091	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
21	Jhabua	1,336	119,787	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
22	Jobat	132	14,336	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
23	Nimkhera	50	4,600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
24	Bagode (Dewas) ..	75	8,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	‖
25	Manpur (British) ..	71	5,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	Total Central India States.	68,374	8,622,356	5,942	—	5,942	—	5,942	9,140	2,364	11,504	17,446
1	Hyderabad	82,698	11,537,040	22,415	—	22,415	—	22,415	—	27,330	27,330	49,745
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	12,604	—	12,604	—	12,604	—	18,889	18,889	31,493
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	20,167	4,167	24,334	—	24,334	3,714	2,428	6,142	30,476
2	Palanpur..	7,775	645,526	552	227	779	—	779	1,417	172	1,589	2,368
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	708	—	708	—	708	10	—	10	718†
4	Cambay	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	96	15	111	111
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	1,607	23	1,630	—	1,630	306	304	610	2,240
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	1,505	184	1,689	—	1,689	704	17	721	2,410‡

* Not known.
† The figures represent the numbers on the last day of the week
‡ The figures are for the week ending 13th October, 1900.
§ Report not received; figures are for the week ending 13th October, 1900.
‖ Report not received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1900—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay Native States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
7	Aundh	447	65,146	45	1	46	—	46	12	—	12	58
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,043	1,158	3,201	—	3,201	—	168	168	3,369
9	Jath	979	71,443	3,578	1,547	5,125	—	5,125	409	95	504	5,629
10	Daphlapur		8,343	141	55	196	—	196	—	—	—	196
11	Akalkot	498	75,774	677	7	684	—	684	—	866	866	1,550
12	Mudhol	361	61,815	676	4	680	—	680	—	—	—	680
13	Phaltan	397	66,383	81	—	81	—	81	—	2	2	83
14	Dharampore	794	120,498	67	—	67	—	67	219	—	219	286
15	Bansda	215	41,373	54	—	54	—	54	44	—	44	98†
	Total Bombay Native States.	47,938	5,974,078	31,901	7,373	39,274	—	39,274	6,931	4,067	10,998	50,272
	Punjab Native States.											
1	Jindh*	1,268	284,560	76	—	76	—	76	—	57	57	133
2	Pataudi*	53	19,002	—	—	—	—	—	—	455	455	455
3	Dujana*	89	26,450	—	—	—	—	—	—	296	296	296
4	Loharu*	226	20,139	—	—	—	—	—	—	240	240	240
5	Patiala	5,951	1,583,521	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,263	2,263	2,263
	Total Punjab Native States.	7,587	1,933,672	76	—	76	—	76	—	3,311	3,311	3,387
	Central Provinces Feudatory States.											
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	1,001	—	1,001	—	1,001	—	1,433	1,433	2,434
2	Raigarh	1,486	168,525	—	—	—	—	—	—	160	160	160
3	Kanker	1,429	82,379	621	—	621	—	621	—	403	403	1,024
4	Khairagarh	931	181,184	609	—	609	—	609	—	2,092	2,092	2,701
5	Sarangarh	540	83,210	303	—	303	—	303	—	377	377	680
6	Sonpur	906	195,245	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,521	2,521	2,521
7	Kawarda	798	91,813	—	—	—	—	—	—	194	194	194
8	Sakti	138	25,374	—	—	—	—	—	—	95	95	95
9	Bastar	13,002	310,884	513	—	513	—	513	—	1,035	1,035	1,548
10	Patna	2,399	332,197	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,779	1,779	1,779
11	Chhuikhadan	154	36,288	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	53	53
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	22,654	1,690,965	3,047	—	3,047	—	3,047	—	10,142	10,142	13,189
	Total Native States ..	314,709	38,491,279	82,923	7,373	90,296	—	90,296	19,400	66,652	86,052	176,348
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	484,268	64,680,014	286,645	52,661	339,306	—	339,306	574,534	520,003	1,094,537	1,433,843

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 24TH NOVEMBER, 1900.

	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	1,976	517	2,493	—	2,493	768	20,374	21,142	23,635
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	—	—	—	—	—	188	5,058	5,246	5,246
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	902	102	1,004	—	1,004	353	12,751	13,104	14,108
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	2,228	359	2,587	—	2,587	123	28,619	28,742	31,329
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	105	—	105	105
6	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	508	508	508
7	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	54,068	10,617	64,685	—	64,685	3,402	13,185	16,587	81,272

* Figures not received ; those for the last week have been repeated.
† The figures represent the numbers on the last day of the week.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 24TH NOVEMBER, 1900—*continued.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
8	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	17,710	3,123	20,833	—	20,833	—	15,873	15,873	36,706
9	Poona	5,369	1,0 7,800	17,832	4,474	22,306	—	22,306	—	7,713	7,713	30,019
10	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	1,375	226	1,601	—	1,601	1,331	6,702	8,033	9,634
11	Nasik	5,940	843,582	11,338	2,008	13,346	—	13,346	300	1,726	2,026	15,372
12	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	4,213	378	4,591	—	4,591	177	3,601	3,778	8,369
13	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	1,632	323	1,955	—	1,955	873	1,577	2,450	4,405
	Total Bombay ..	57,932	10,951,782	113,274	22,127	135,401	—	135,401	7,620	117,687	125,307	260,708
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	64	—	64	64
2	Jubbulpore	3,948	748,146	—	—	—	—	—	204	—	204	204
3	Narsinghpur	1,916	367,026	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	23	23
4	Hoshangabad	4,594	529,945	—	—	—	—	—	—	921	921	921
5	Nimar	3,357	253,486	—	—	—	—	—	115	610	725	725
6	Betul	3,824	323,196	—	—	—	—	—	959	4,726	5,685	5,685
7	Wardha	2,428	400,854	—	—	—	—	—	6,035	5,401	11,436	11,436
8	Nagpur	3,843	757,862	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,772	3,772	3,772
9	Chanda	10,749	697,610	—	—	—	—	—	22,524	10,376	32,900	32,900
10	Bhandara	3,968	742,850	—	—	—	—	—	286	1,427	1,713	1,713
11	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	3,497	4,089	7,586	7,586
12	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	—	—	—	—	—	129	7,686	7,815	7,815
13	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	—	—	—	—	—	119	3,072	3,191	3,191
14	Sambalpur	4,948	796,413	—	—	—	—	—	93	—	93	93
	Total Central Provinces.	70,786	9,341,047	—	—	—	—	—	34,048	42,080	76,128	76,128
	Berar.											
1	Amraoti	2,759	655,645	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	43	43
2	Akola	2,669	574,782	—	—	—	—	—	1,317	441	1,758	1,758
3	Ellichpur ..	2,623	315,798	—	—	—	—	—	35	681	716	716
4	Buldana	2,809	481,021	5,798	329	6,127	—	6,127	7,574	4,278	11,852	17,979
5	Basim	2,956	398,181	—	—	—	—	—	2,127	6,332	8,459	8,459
6	Wun	3,911	471,613	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	39	39
	Total Berar ..	17,717	2,897,040	5,798	329	6,127	—	6,127	11,135	11,732	22,867	28,994
1	Ajmer	2,070	422,359	—	—	—	—	—	245	—	245	245
	Total British Provinces.	148,505	23,612,228	119,072	22,456	141,528	—	141,528	53,048	171,499	224,547	366,025
	Rajputana States.											
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	—	—	—	—	—	343	—	343	343
2	Bundi	2,220	295,875	—	—	—	—	—	297	—	297	297
3	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	212	—	212	—	212	169	—	169	381
4	Shahpura	405	89,873	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	30	30
5	Mewar	11,203	1,792,126	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
6	Jhalawar	2,722	343,583	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	Kotah	3,784	526,267	3,319	—	3,319	—	3,319	720	—	720	4,039
	Total Rajputana States.	77,637	6,407,845	3,531	—	3,531	—	3,531	1,587	—	1,587	5,118

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 24TH NOVEMBER, 1900—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Gwalior	29,047	3,513,763	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	†
2	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	—	—	—	—	—	1,491	21	1,512	1,512
3	Dewas S. B	155	77,922	—	—	—	—	—	13	85	98	98
4	Dewas J. B.	134	65,723	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	40	40
5	Bhopal	6,996	952,486	438	98	536	—	536	323	—	323	859
6	Narsinghgarh	669	116,280	—	—	—	—	—	49	—	49	49
7	Jaora	606	130	—	—	—	—	—	73	35	108	108
8	Amjhera	649	55,000	—	—	—	—	—	38	—	38	38
9	Dhar	1,739	167,504	—	—	—	—	—	182	—	182	182
10	Manpur (British) ..	71	5,000	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	8	8
	Total Central India States.	48,466	6,053,708	438	98	536	—	536	2,177	181	2,358	2,894
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	2,501	—	2,501	—	2,501	—	3,802	3,802	6,303
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	6,339	—	6,339	—	6,339	—	10,063	10,063	16,402
	*Bombay Native States.**											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	9,711	657	10,368	—	10,368	2,118	2,303	4,421	14,789
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	328	86	414	—	414	622	108	730	1,144
3	Cutch	6,500	558,415	344	—	344	—	344	10	—	10	354
4	Cambay	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	70	—	70	70
5	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	526	13	539	—	539	126	148	274	813
6	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	338	—	338	—	338	225	—	225	563
7	Aundh	447	65,146	40	—	40	—	40	6	—	6	46
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,609	675	2,284	—	2,284	281	204	485	2,769
9	Jath	979	71,443	2,910	1,410	4,320	—	4,320	357	94	451	4,771
10	Daphlapur		8,343	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	39	39
11	Akalkot	498	75,774	296	—	296	—	296	—	451	451	747
12	Mudhol	361	61,815	464	4	468	—	468	—	—	—	468
13	Phaltan	397	66,383	174	—	174	—	174	—	—	—	174
14	Dharampore	794	120,498	74	—	74	—	74	76	—	76	150
15	Bansda	215	41,373	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	25	25
	Total Bombay Native States.	47,938	5,974,078	16,814	2,845	19,659	—	19,659	3,916	3,347	7,263	26,922
	Central Provinces Feudatory States.											
1	Nandgaon	871	183,866	152	—	152	—	152	—	61	61	213
2	Khairagarh	931	181,184	463	—	463	—	463	—	113	113	576
3	Bastar	13,002	310,884	335	—	335	—	335	—	607	607	942
4	Patna	2,399	332,197	—	—	—	—	—	—	156	156	156
5	Chhuikhadan	154	36,288	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	53	53
	Total Central Provinces Feudatory States.	17,357	1,044,419	950	—	950	—	950	—	990	990	1,940
	Total Native States	228,322	33,432,286	30,573	2,943	35,516	—	35,516	7,680	18,383	26,063	59,579
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	376,827	57,044,514	149,845	25,399	175,044	—	175,044	60,728	189,882	250,610	425,654

* The figures for the Native States of Cutch and Bansda represent the numbers on the last day of the week, while others represent the daily averages. The figures for the Kathiawar and Mahi Kantha States and those for the Belgaum District are for the week ending 3rd November, 1900.

† Return not received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH DECEMBER, 1900.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	429	69	498	—	498	758	4,294	5,052	5,550
2	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	1,307	135	1,442	—	1,442	164	4,466	4,630	6,072
3	Broach	1,463	341,490	1,416	215	1,631	—	1,631	25	2,345	2,370	4,001
4	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	60	60
5	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	63,213	13,742	76,955	—	76,955	1,857	12,576	14,433	91,388
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	26,010	4,301	30,311	—	30,311	—	8,168	8,168	38,479
7	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	14,999	5,084	20,083	—	20,083	—	535	535	20,618
8	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	2,090	—	2,090	—	2,090	382	65	447	2,537
9	Nasik	5,940	843,582	1,893	—	1,893	—	1,893	42	—	42	1,935
10	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	6,495	252	6,747	—	6,747	—	981	981	7,728
11	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	5,851	458	6,309	—	6,309	900	1,477	2,377	8,686
	Total Bombay ..	54,661	9,430,204	123,703	24,256	147,959	—	147,959	4,128	34,967	39,095	187,054
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	22	22
2	Nimar	3,357	253,486	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	20	20
3	Betul	3,824	323,196	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	11	11
4	Chanda	10,749	697,610	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,764	4,764	4,764
5	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	22	22
	Total Central Provinces	30,278	3,030,193	—	—	—	—	—	75	4,764	4,839	4,839
	Total British Provinces	84,939	12,460,397	123,703	24,256	147,959	—	147,959	4,203	39,731	43,934	191,893
	Rajputana States.											
1	Marwar	34,963	2,528,178	—	—	—	—	—	396	—	396	396
2	Bikaner	22,340	831,943	142	—	142	—	142	153	—	153	295
3	Tonk	2,752	380,069	—	—	—	—	—	80	—	80	80
4	Bundi	2,220	295,675	—	—	—	—	—	200	—	200	200
5	Shahpura	405	63,646	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
	Total Rajputana States	62,680	4,099,511	142	—	142	—	142	857	—	857	999
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,400	1,099,800	—	—	—	—	—	804	—	804	804
2	Jaora	606	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	30	9	39	39
	Total Central India States.	9,006	1,217,550	—	—	—	—	—	834	9	843	843
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	1,997	—	1,997	—	1,997	1,235	—	1,235	3,232
1	Baroda	8,228	2,415,396	6,895	—	6,895	—	6,895	5,743	—	5,743	12,638
	*Bombay Native States.**											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	463	95	558	—	558	445	420	865	1,423
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	264	87	351	—	351	401	70	471	822
3	Cambay	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	50	50
4	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	576	24	600	—	600	15	27	42	642
5	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	—	—	—	—	—	76	—	76	76

* The figures for the native states of Bansda represent the numbers on the last day of the week while others represent the daily averages. The figures for the Mahi Kantha States are for the week ending 15th December, 1900.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH DECEMBER, 1900—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay Native States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
6	Aundh	447	65,146	105	—	105	—	105	6	—	6	111
7	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,218	1,320	3,538	—	3,538	312	112	424	3,962
8	Jath	979	71,443	5,082	2,190	7,272	—	7,272	413	119	532	7,804
9	Daphlapur		8,343	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14	14
10	Akalkot	498	75,774	229	—	229	—	229	—	197	197	426
11	Mudhol	361	61,815	704	3	707	—	707	—	—	—	707
12	Phaltan	397	66,383	253	50	303	—	303	—	4	4	307
13	Bansda	215	41,373	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	18	18
	Total Bombay Native States.	40,644	5,295,165	9,894	3,769	13,663	—	13,663	1,736	963	2,699	16,362
	Total Native States	149,254	24,564,662	18,928	3,769	22,697	—	22,697	10,405	972	11,377	34,074
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	234,193	37,025,059	142,631	28,025	170,656	—	170,656	14,608	40,703	55,311	225,967

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH JANUARY, 1901.

	Madras.											
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,834	2,834	2,834
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,834	2,834	2,834
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	488	44	532	—	532	797	078	6,875	7,407
2	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	1,795	112	1,907	—	1,907	169	3,115	3,284	5,191
3	Broach	1,463	341,490	1,770	148	1,918	—	1,918	—	367	367	2,285
4	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	104	104	104
5	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	53,174	12,354	65,528	—	65,528	1,681	11,107	12,788	78,316
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	35,650	5,623	41,273	—	41,273	—	9,140	9,140	50,413
7	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	12,592	4,494	17,086	—	17,086	—	1,651	1,651	18,737
8	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	—	—	—	—	—	312	167	479	479
9	Nasik	5,940	843,582	1,757	—	1,757	—	1,757	34	—	34	1,791
10	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	7,832	344	8,176	—	8,176	—	914	914	9,090
11	Bijapur	5,603	796,339	5,138	683	5,821	581	6,402	1,138	1,845	2,983	9,385
	Total Bombay ..	54,661	9,430,204	120,196	23,802	143,998	581	144,579	4,131	34,488	38,619	183,198
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	19	19
	Total Central Provinces	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	19	19
	Total British Provinces	67,390	11,294,019	120,196	23,802	143,998	581	144,579	4,150	37,322	41,472	186,051
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,400	1,093,900	—	—	—	—	—	705	—	705	705
2	Jaora	606	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	44	44
	Total Central India States.	9,006	1,217,550	—	—	—	—	—	749	—	749	749

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH JANUARY, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
		Sq. Miles.										
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	1,836	—	1,836	—	1,836	722	—	722	2,558
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	8,678	—	8,678	—	8,678	4,383	—	4,383	13,061
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	769	110	879	—	879	444	337	781	1,660
2	Palanpur..	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	208	69	277	277
3	Cambay	350	89,722	—	—	—	—	—	52	—	52	52
4	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	782	34	816	—	816	15	168	183	999
5	Aundh	447	65,146	110	—	110	—	110	—	5	5	115
6	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,838	1,076	2,914	—	2,914	311	122	433	3,347
7	Jath	979	71,443	5,713	2,415	8,128	—	8,128	389	179	568	8,696
8	Daphlapur		8,343	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	9
9	Akalkot	498	75,774	164	—	164	—	164	—	35	35	199
10	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,097	4	1,101	—	1,101	—	—	—	1,101
11	Phaltan	397	66,383	256	70	326	—	326	—	3	3	329
	Total Bombay Native States.	36,901	4,672,224	10,729	3,709	14,438	—	14,438	1,419	927	2,346	16,784
	Total Native States ..	82,831	19,842,210	21,243	3,709	24,952	—	24,952	7,273	927	8,200	33,152
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	150,221	31,136,229	141,439	27,511	168,950	581	169,531	11,423	38,249	49,672	219,203

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 23RD FEBRUARY, 1901.

	Madras.											
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	327	327	—	3,011	3,011	3,338
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	327	327	—	3,011	3,011	3,338
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	1,704	—	1,704	—	1,704	624	6,424	7,048	8,752
2	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	3,180	101	3,281	—	3,281	156	3,031	3,187	6,468
3	Broach	1,463	341,490	562	17	579	—	579	—	149	149	728
4	Thana	3,578	819,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4
5	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	42,746	11,615	54,361	—	54,361	1,103	10,359	11,462	65,823
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	41,774	6,284	48,058	—	48,058	—	10,154	10,154	58,212
7	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	11,746	3,742	15,488	—	15,488	—	2,203	2,203	17,691
8	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	—	—	—	—	—	289	278	567	567
9	Nasik	5,940	843,582	1,418	—	1,418	—	1,418	42	—	42	1,460
10	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	8,430	334	8,764	—	8,764	—	1,329	1,329	10,093
11	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	5,696	1,085	6,781	—	6,781	1,405	2,447	3,852	10,633
12	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	—	—	—	351	351	—	—	—	351
	Total Bombay ..	59,264	10,481,518	117,256	23,178	140,434	351	140,785	3,619	36,378	39,997	180,782
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	16	16
	Total Central Provinces	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	16	16
	Total British Provinces	71,993	12,345,333	117,256	23,178	140,434	678	141,112	3,635	39,389	43,024	184,136

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 23RD FEBRUARY, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	—	—	—	—	—	657	—	657	657
2	Jaora	606	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	26	9	35	35
3	Jobat	132	14,336	977*	—	977	—	977	—	—	—	977
	Total Central India States.	9,138	1,231,886	977	—	977	—	977	683	9	692	1,669
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	1,275	—	1,275	—	1,275	766	—	766	2,041
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	11,995	—	11,995	—	11,995	4,358	—	4,358	16,353
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	196	100	296	—	296	235	300	535	831
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	50	65	115	115
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	804	—	804	—	804	12	46	58	862
4	Aundh	447	65,146	232	—	232	—	232	19	—	19	251
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,848	1,224	3,072	—	3,072	289	16	305	3,377
6	Jath	979	71,443	6,185	2,509	8,694	—	8,694	393	213	606	9,300
7	Daphlapur		8,343	13	—	13	—	13	—	7	7	20
8	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	441	7	448	—	448	—	—	—	448
9	Akalkot	498	75,774	156	—	156	—	156	—	38	38	194
10	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,422	—	1,422	—	1,422	—	—	—	1,422
11	Phaltan	397	66,383	206	40	246	—	246	—	4	4	250
	Total Bombay Native States.	38,696	5,287,753	11,503	3,880	15,383	—	15,383	998	689	1,687	17,070
	Total Native States	84,758	20,472,075	25,750	3,880	29,630	—	29,630	6,805	698	7,503	37,133
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	156,751	32,817,408	143,006	27,058	170,064	678	170,742	10,440	40,087	50,527	221,269

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH MARCH, 1901.

	Madras.											
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	851	851	—	3,005	3,005	3,856
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	851	851	—	3,005	3,005	3,856
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	4,119	—	4,119	—	4,119	565	4,251	4,816	8,935
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	8,204	—	8,204	—	8,204	—	248	248	8,452
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	3,049	102	3,151	—	3,151	116	4,028	4,144	7,295
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	759	—	759	—	759	—	443	443	1,202
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	—	221	221	221
6	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	35,373	9,255	44,628	—	44,628	1,108	10,037	11,145	55,773
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	40,714	6,482	47,196	—	47,196	—	12,547	12,547	59,743
8	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	7,856	3,914	11,770	—	11,770	—	2,232	2,232	14,002

* Labourers on the Jobat-Alirajpur Road.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH MARCH, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			Grand Total
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	—	—	—	—	—	320	563	883	883
10	Nasik	5,940	843,582	3,491	—	3,491	—	3,491	48	200	248	3,739
11	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	6,718	1,391	8,109	—	8,109	—	2,101	2,101	10,210
12	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	8,131	1,244	9,375	—	9,375	1,564	2,809	4,373	13,748
13	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	418	418	—	—	—	418
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	876	—	876	—	876	—	—	—	876
	Total Bombay ..	63,614	12,196,777	119,290	22,388	141,678	418	142,096	3,721	39,680	43,401	185,497
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	7	7
2	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	47	631	678	678
	Total Central Provinces	7,146	975,074	—	—	—	—	—	54	631	685	685
	Total British Provinces	79,842	14,443,923	119,290	22,388	141,678	1,269	142,947	3,775	43,316	47,091	190,038
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,400	1,099,900	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	117,650	—	—	—	—	—	28	9	37	37
3	Jobat	132	14,336	3,103*	—	3,103*	—	3,103*	—	—	—	3,103
	Total Central India States.	9,138	1,231,886	3,103	—	3,103	—	3,103	692	9	701	3,804
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	—	Figures not reported.			—	—	—	—	—
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	9,998	—	9,998	—	9,998	4,055	—	4,055	14,053
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	17	—	17	—	17	218	402	620	637
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	51	61	112	112
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	283	18	301	—	301	—	45	45	346
4	Aundh	447	65,146	19	—	19	—	19	19	—	19	38
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,659	965	2,623	—	2,623	307	32	339	2,962
6	Jath	979	71,443	6,281	2,788	9,069	—	9,069	404	257	661	9,730
7	Daphlapur		8,343	20	—	20	—	20	—	15	15	35
8	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	597	—	597	—	597	—	16	16	613
9	Ramdurg	169	36,181	117	19	136	—	136	—	—	—	136
10	Sangli	1,083	238,945	855	205	1,060	—	1,060	—	—	—	1,060
11	Akalkot	498	75,774	228	—	228	—	228	—	98	98	326
12	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,759	5	1,764	—	1,764	—	—	—	1,764
13	Phaltan	397	66,383	194	35	229	—	229	—	3	3	232
	Total Bombay Native States.	39,948	5,562,879	12,028	4,035	16,063	—	16,063	999	929	1,928	17,991
	Total Native States ..	84,010	20,747,201	25,129	4,035	29,164	—	29,164	5,746	938	6,684	35,848
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	163,852	35,191,124	144,419	26,423	170,842	1,269	172,111	9,521	44,254	53,775	225,886

* Labourers on the Jobat-Alirajpur Road.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH APRIL, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Madras.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	2,021	2,021	—	3,087	3,087	5,108
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	2,021	2,021	—	3,087	3,087	5,108
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	13,607	—	13,607	—	13,607	1,221	4,428	5,649	19,256
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	34,400	322	34,722	—	34,722	—	1,409	1,409	36,131
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	8,939	98	9,037	—	9,037	110	5,898	6,008	15,045
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	692	—	692	—	692	—	852	852	1,544
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	1,000	1,000
6	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	40,273	9,128	49,401	—	49,401	1,572	11,252	12,824	62,225
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	53,318	8,443	61,761	—	61,761	—	16,676	16,676	78,437
8	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	12,819	4,612	17,431	—	17,431	—	2,536	2,536	19,967
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	—	—	—	—	—	238	3,324	3,562	3,562
10	Nasik	5,940	843,582	1,919	184	2,103	2,468	4,571	63	728	791	5,362
11	Satara	4,987	1,225,989	8,430	1,237	9,667	—	9,667	—	2,982	2,982	12,649
12	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	12,556	2,259	14,815	—	14,815	1,797	3,072	4,869	19,684
13	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	1,071	1,071	—	1,108	1,108	2,179
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	1,390	—	1,390	—	1,390	—	59	59	1,449
	Total Bombay ..	63,614	12,196,777	188,343	26,283	214,626	3,539	218,165	5,001	55,324	60,325	278,490
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	5
2	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	55	805	860	860
	Total Central Provinces	7,146	975,074	—	—	—	—	—	60	805	865	865
	Total British Provinces	79,482	14,443,923	188,343	26,283	214,626	5,560	220,186	5,061	59,216	64,277	284,463
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	130,000	—	—	—	—	—	67	—	67	67
3	Amjhera	649	37,000	521	—	521	—	521	—	—	—	521
4	Alirajpur	831	50,000	1,396	—	1,396	—	1,396	—	—	—	1,396
5	Jhabua	1,500	81,000	1,253	—	1,253	—	1,253	—	5	5	1,258
6	Jobat	132	9,000	945	—	945	—	945	—	—	—	945
	Total Central India States.	11,793	1,406,000	4,115	—	4,115	—	4,115	731	5	736	4,851
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	8,597	—	8,597	—	8,597	10,799	—	10,799	19,396
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	13,752	—	13,752	—	13,752	5,428	—	5,428	19,180
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	—	—	—	—	—	207	350	557	557
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	6	61	67	67
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	232	—	232	—	232	—	38	38	270
4	Aundh	447	65,146	100	—	100	—	100	20	—	20	120
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,834	954	2,788	—	2,788	322	47	369	3,157

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH APRIL, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay Native States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
6	Jath	979	71,443	10,904	5,189	16,093	—	16,093	435	246	681	16,774
7	Daphlapur		8,343	85	—	85	—	85	—	37	37	122
8	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	584	—	584	—	584	—	9	9	593
9	Ramdurg..	169	36,181	165	10	175	—	175	—	—	—	175
10	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	50	35	85	—	85	—	14	14	99
11	Sangli	1.083	238,945	1,558	873	2,431	—	2,431	—	—	—	2,431
12	Akalkot	498	75,774	235	2	237	—	237	—	127	127	364
13	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,104	4	1,108	—	1,108	—	—	—	1,108
14	Phaltan	397	66,383	207	32	239	—	239	—	4	4	243
	Total Bombay Native States.	40,173	5,598,366	17,058	7,099	24,157	—	24,157	990	933	1,923	26,080
	Total Native States	88,890	20,956,802	43,522	7,099	50,621	—	50,621	17,948	938	18,886	69,507
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	168,372	35,400,725	231,865	33,382	265,247	5,560	270,807	23,009	60,154	83,163	353,970

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH MAY, 1901.

	Madras.											
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	1,953	1,953	—	3,051	3,051	5,004
2	North Arcot	7,616	2,180,487	—	—	—	161	161	—	—	—	161
	Total Madras ..	16,338	3,452,559	—	—	—	2,114	2,114	—	3,051	3,051	5,165
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	921,712	21,314	—	21,314	—	21,314	1,026	6,317	7,343	28,657
2	Kaira	1,609	871,589	44,771	1,412	46,183	—	46,183	—	2,367	2,367	48,550
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	313,417	11,928	108	12,036	—	12,036	81	4,522	4,603	16,639
4	Broach	1,463	341,490	922	—	922	—	922	—	816	816	1,738
5	Surat	1,662	649,989	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,395	1,395	1,395
6	Sholapur	4,542	750,689	45,452	10,149	55,601	—	55,601	1,854	11,086	12,940	68.541
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	69,754	11,709	81,463	—	81,463	—	22,795	22,795	104,258
8	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	18,349	5,660	24,009	—	24,009	—	3,414	3,414	27,423
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,460,851	226	—	226	41	267	151	5,395	5,546	5,813
10	Nasik	5,940	843,582	7,146	302	7,448	—	7,448	81	1,636	1,717	9,165
11	Satara	4,987	1,225,939	9,248	973	10,221	—	10,221	—	3,882	3,882	14,103
12	Bijapur	5,668	796,339	15,968	3,125	19,093	—	19,093	2,061	3,343	5,404	24,497
13	Belgaum	4,657	1,013,261	—	—	—	650	650	—	2,029	2,029	2,679
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,051,314	1,932	—	1,932	—	1,932	—	4	4	1,936
	Total Bombay ..	63,614	12,196,777	247,010	33,438	280,448	691	281,139	5,254	69,001	74,255	355,394
	Central Provinces.											
1	Saugor	4,007	591,743	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6	6
2	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	53	559	612	612
3	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	—	—	—	—	—	151	—	151	151
	Total Central Provinces	18,870	2,559,501	—	—	—	—	—	210	559	769	769
	Total British Provinces	98,822	18,208,837	247,010	33,438	280,448	2,805	283,253	5,464	72,611	78,075	361,328

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 25TH MAY, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	245	60	305	—	305	62	—	62	367
3	Amjhera	649	37,000	870	—	870	—	870	—	—	—	870
4	Alirajpur	831	50,000	2,189	—	2,189	—	2,189	—	—	—	2,189
5	Jhabua	1,500	81,000	1,803	113	1,916	—	1,916	—	7	7	1,923
6	Jobat	132	9,000	135	—	135	—	135	—	—	—	135
7	Kuksi	164	20,000	228	—	228	—	228	—	—	—	228
	Total Central India States.	11,957	1,380,000	5,470	173	5,643	—	5,643	726	7	733	6,376
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	11,370	—	11,370	—	11,370	2,543	—	2,543	13,913
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	17,946	—	17,946	—	17,946	7,703	—	7,703	25,649
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	4,462	34	4,496	—	4,496	587	89	676	5,172
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	26	—	26	—	26	14	61	75	101
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	1,944	22	1,966	—	1,966	—	110	110	2,076
4	Aundh	447	65,146	99	8	107	—	107	20	—	20	127
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,739	448	2,187	—	2,187	350	43	393	2,580
6	Jath	979	71,443	11,730	4,081	15,811	—	15,811	310	655	965	16,776
7	Daphlapur		8,343	293	—	293	—	293	—	36	36	329
8	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	406	—	406	—	406	—	4	4	410
9	Ramdurg	169	36,181	266	17	283	—	283	—	—	—	283
10	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	206	74	280	—	280	—	14	14	294
11	Sangli	1,083	238,945	2,604	999	3,603	—	3,603	—	—	—	3,603
12	Akalkot	498	75,774	585	2	587	—	587	—	151	151	738
13	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,703	4	1,707	—	1,707	—	—	—	1,707
14	Phaltan	397	66,383	233	25	258	—	258	—	12	12	270
	Total Bombay Native States.	40,173	5,598,366	26,296	5,714	32,010	—	32,010	1,281	1,175	2,456	34,466
	Total Native States ..	89,054	20,975,762	61,082	5,887	66,969	—	66,969	12,253	1,182	13,435	80,404
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	187,876	39,184,599	308,092	39,325	347,417	2,805	350,222	17,717	73,793	91,510	441,732

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH JUNE, 1901.

	Madras.											
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	1,426	1,426	—	3,115	3,115	4,541
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	1,426	1,426	—	3,115	3,115	4,541
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	24,112	—	24,112	—	24,112	894	8,823	9,717	33,829
2	Kaira	1,609	715,725	40,956	1,878	42,834	—	42,834	—	2,540	2,540	45,374
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	281,870	10,901	86	10,987	—	10,987	45	3,371	3,416	14,403
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	1,478	—	1,478	—	1,478	—	774	774	2,252
5	Surat	1,662	636,802	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,213	2,213	2,213
6	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	57,699	15,454	73,153	—	73,153	1,885	12,939	14,824	87,977
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	77,788	13,534	91,322	—	91,322	—	29,363	29,363	120,685
8	Poona	5,369	995,074	23,077	6,774	29,851	—	29,851	—	4,579	4,579	34,430

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 29TH JUNE, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,442,018	2,106	—	2,106	—	2,106	37	15,545	15,582	17,688
10	Nasik	5,940	819,575	5,688	341	6,029	—	6,029	335	5,318	5,653	11,682
11	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	10,384	2,156	12,540	—	12,540	—	6,362	6,362	18,902
12	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	20,255	4,561	24,816	—	24,816	2,678	3,478	6,156	30,972
13	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	6,972	778	7,750	—	7,750	—	2,681	2,681	10,431
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	694	—	694	—	694	—	69	69	763
	Total Bombay ..	63,614	11,505,335	282,110	45,562	327,672	—	327,672	5,874	98,055	103,929	431,601
	Central Provinces.											
1	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	60	263	323	323
2	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	—	—	—	—	—	—	905	905	905
	Total Central Provinces	14,863	1,967,758	—	—	—	—	—	60	1,168	1,228	1,228
	Total British Provinces	87,199	14,745,165	282,110	45,562	327,672	1,426	329,098	5,934	102,338	108,272	437,370
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	345	59	404	—	404	61	—	61	465
3	Amjhera	649	37,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—*
4	Alirajpur	831	50,000	378	—	378	—	378	—	—	—	378
5	Jhabua	1,500	81,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—*
6	Jobat	132	9,000	323	—	323	—	323	—	—	—	323
7	Kuksi	164	20,000	142	—	142	—	142	—	—	—	142
	Total Central India States.	11,957	1,380,000	1,188	59	1,247	—	1,247	725	—	725	1,972
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	14,965	—	14,965	—	14,965	2,894	—	2,894	17,859
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	20,483	—	20,483	—	20,483	9,479	—	9,479	29,962
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	6,944	267	7,211	—	7,211	996	645	1,641	8,852
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	433	—	433	—	433	60	57	117	550
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	1,300	—	1,300	—	1,300	—	108	108	1,408
4	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	456	—	456	—	456	—	—	—	456
5	Akalkot	498	75,774	537	4	541	—	541	—	193	193	734
6	Aundh	447	65,146	116	13	129	—	129	24	—	24	153
7	Phaltan	397	66,383	223	21	244	—	244	—	13	13	257
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,949	490	2,439	—	2,439	370	31	401	2,840
9	Jath	979	71,443	10,759	4,142	14,901	—	14,901	723	333	1,056	15,957
10	Daphlapur		8,343	444	—	444	—	444	—	89	89	533
11	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	401	176	577	—	577	—	17	17	594
12	Sangli	1,083	238,945	5,186	2,011	7,197	—	7,197	22	—	22	7,219
13	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	678	4	682	—	682	—	4	4	686
14	Mudhol	361	61,815	2,806	—	2,806	—	2,806	1,250	1,774	3,024	5,830
15	Ramdurg	169	36,181	372	15	387	—	387	—	—	—	387
	Total Bombay Native States.	43,701	6,179,934	32,604	7,143	39,747	—	39,747	3,445	3,264	6,709	46,456
	Total Native States	92,582	21,512,370	69,240*	7,202	76,442	—	76,442	16,543	3,264	19,807	96,249
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	179,781	36,257,535	351,350	52,764	404,114	1,426	405,540	22,477	105,602	128,079	533,619

NOTE.—The figures for the Native State of Mahi Kantha are for the week ending 15th June, 1901.
* Figures not received.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH JULY, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Madras.	Sq. Miles.										
	Cuddapah	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,953	2,953	2,953
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,272,072	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,953	2,953	2,953
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	17,420	—	17,420	—	17,420	1,068	15,363	16,431	33,851
2	Kaira	1,609	715,725	8,738	140	8,878	—	8,878	—	2,460	2,460	11,338
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,870	7,723	51	7,774	—	7,774	19	5,410	5,429	13,203
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	213	—	213	—	213	—	683	683	896
5	Surat	1,662	636,602	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,554	1,554	1,554
6	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	62,715	16,670	79,385	—	79,385	2,029	15,028	17,057	96,442
7	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	77,491	13,869	91,360	—	91,360	—	32,138	32,138	123,498
8	Poona	5,369	995,074	22,105	7,289	29,394	—	29,394	—	4,658	4,658	34,052
9	Khandesh	10,907	1,442,018	1,860	—	1,860	—	1,860	—	45,554	45,554	47,414
10	Nasik	5,940	819,575	6,829	152	6,981	—	6,981	429	6,157	6,586	13,567
11	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	12,918	2,414	15,332	—	15,332	407	12,480	12,887	28,219
12	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	21,630	4,072	25,702	—	25,702	3,405	3,841	7,246	32,948
13	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	12,152	3,574	15,726	—	15,726	—	4,236	4,236	19,962
14	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	81	—	81	—	81	—	11	11	92
	Total Bombay ..	63,614	11,505,335	251,875	48,231	300,106	—	300,106	7,357	149,573	156,930	457,036
	Central Provinces.											
1	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	82	318	400	400
2	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,158	3,158	3,158
3	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	47	47
	Total Central Provinces	23,204	3,131,916	—	—	—	—	—	82	3,523	3,605	3,605
	Total British Provinces	95,540	15,909,323	251,875	48,231	300,106	—	300,106	7,439	156,049	163,488	463,594
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	78	102	180	180
3	Amjhera	607	37,000	1,817	—	1,817	—	1,817	—	—	—	1,817
4	Alirajpur	831	50,000	181	—	181	—	181	—	—	—	181
5	Jhabua	1,287	81,000	2,037	56	2,093	—	2,093	104	—	104	2,197
6	Jobat	132	9,000	78	—	78	—	78	—	—	—	78
7	Kuksi	164	20,000	149	—	149	—	149	—	—	—	149
8	Ratlam	729	83,000	664	—	664	—	664	188	—	188	852
	Total Central India States.	12,431	1,463,000	4,926	56	4,982	—	4,982	1,034	102	1,136	6,118
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	6,062	—	6,062	—	6,062	2,841	—	2,841	8,903
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	22,394	—	22,394	—	22,394	9,974	—	9,974	32,368
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	4,271	23	4,294	—	4,294	815	83	898	5,192
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	1,517	—	1,517	—	1,517	128	56	184	1,701
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	975	—	975	—	975	—	86	86	1,061
4	Mahi Kantha	3,528	581,568	252	—	252	—	252	—	—	—	252
5	Akalkot	498	75,774	487	4	491	—	491	—	181	181	672

NOTE.—The figures for the Native State of Mahi Kantha are for the week ending 20th July, 1901.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 27TH JULY, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay Native States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
6	Aundh	447	65,146	63	6	69	—	69	26	—	26	95
7	Phaltan	397	66,383	216	17	233	—	233	—	16	16	249
8	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,227	560	2,787	—	2,787	357	32	389	3,176
9	Jath	979	71,443	10,052	3,917	13,969	—	13,969	726	369	1,095	15,064
10	Daphlapur		8,343	488	—	488	—	488	—	96	96	584
11	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	656	298	954	—	954	—	19	19	973
12	Sangli	1,083	238,945	5,699	2,565	8,264	—	8,264	47	—	47	8,311
13	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	1,226	4	1,230	—	1,230	—	2	2	1,232
14	Mudhol	361	61,815	1,854	—	1,854	—	1,854	1,050	177	1,227	3,081
15	Ramdurg..	169	36,181	414	26	440	—	440	—	—	—	440
	Total Bombay Native States.	43,701	6,179,934	30,397	7,420	37,817	—	37,817	3,149	1,117	4,266	42,083
1	Mysore	27,936	5,538,482	2,639	—	2,639	—	2,639	—	—	—	2,639
	Total Native States	120,992	27,133,852	66,418	7,476	73,894	—	73,894	16,998	1,219	18,217	92,111
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	216,532	43,043,175	318,293	55,707	374,000	—	374,000	24,437	157,268	181,705	555,705

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 31ST AUGUST, 1901.

	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	2,737	—	2,737	—	2,737	666	17,378	18,044	20,781
2	Kaira	1,609	715,725	—	—	—	—	—	—	605	605	605
3	Panch Mahals.. ..	1,613	261,870	4,266	36	4,302	—	4,302	—	6,542	6,542	10,844
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	—	—	—	—	—	—	263	263	263
5	Sholapur..	4,542	720,978	45,286	11,464	56,750	—	56,750	1,220	16,268	17,488	74,238
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	81,200	14,563	95,763	—	95,763	—	26,311	26,311	122,074
7	Poona	5,369	995,074	16,411	5,945	22,356	—	22,356	—	3,905	3,905	26,261
8	Khandesh	10,907	1,442,018	1,651	—	1,651	—	1,651	—	16,153	16,153	17,804
9	Nasik	5,940	819,575	6,209	188	6,397	—	6,397	565	5,399	5,964	12,361
10	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	12,135	2,394	14,529	—	14,529	437	10,875	11,312	25,841
11	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	26,351	4,725	31,076	—	31,076	3,835	4,114	7,949	39,025
12	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	13,582	6,082	19,664	—	19,664	—	5,349	5,349	25,013
13	Dharwar..	4,603	1,113,426	267	—	267	—	267	—	12	12	279
	Total Bombay ..	61,952	10,868,733	210,095	45,397	255,492	—	255,492	6,723	113,174	119,897	375,389
	Central Provinces.											
1	Balaghat..	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	59	—	59	59
2	Raipur	11,724	1,584,427	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,918	3,918	3,918
3	Bilaspur	8,341	1,164,158	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	47	47
	Total Central Provinces	23,204	3,131,916	—	—	—	—	—	59	3,965	4,024	4,024
	Total British Provinces	85,156	14,000,649	210,095	45,397	255,492	—	255,492	6,782	117,139	123,921	379,413
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	58	184	242	242
3	Amjhera	607	37,000	2,277	—	2,277	—	2,277	—	—	—	2,277
4	Alirajpur	831	50,000	420	—	420	—	420	—	—	—	420

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 31ST AUGUST, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Central India States—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
5	Jhabua	1,287	81,000	1,460	—	1,460	—	1,460	—	—	—	1,460
6	Jobat	132	9,000	89	—	89	—	89	—	—	—	89
7	Kuksi	164	20,000	89	—	89	—	89	—	—	—	89
8	Ratlam	729	83,000	—	—	—	—	—	180	—	180	180
	Total Central India States.	12,431	1,463,000	4,335	—	4,335	—	4,335	902	184	1,086	5,421
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	4,656	—	4,656	—	4,656	1,839	—	1,839	6,495
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	17,710	—	17,710	—	17,710	8,970	—	8,970	26,680
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	3,772	29	3,801	—	3,801	1,201	69	1,270	5,071
2	Palanpur..	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	117	55	172	172
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	703	—	703	—	703	—	102	102	805
4	Akalkot	498	75,774	515	9	524	—	524	—	214	214	738
5	Aundh	447	65,146	44	5	49	—	49	27	—	27	76
6	Phaltan	397	66,383	240	15	255	—	255	—	13	13	268
7	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,969	944	3,913	—	3,913	381	42	423	4,336
8	Jath	979	71,443	6,901	2,771	9,672	—	9,672	666	367	1,033	10,705
9	Dathlapur		8,343	494	—	494	—	494	—	111	111	605
10	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	754	287	1,041	—	1,041	—	18	18	1,059
11	Sangli	1,083	238,945	6,477	2,406	8,883	—	8,883	216	—	216	9,099
12	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	500	4	504	—	504	—	2	2	506
13	Mudhol	361	61,815	2,243	—	2,243	—	2,243	1,008	180	1,188	3,431
14	Ramdurg..	169	36,181	467	43	510	—	510	—	—	—	510
	Total Bombay Native States.	40,173	5,598,366	26,079	6,513	32,592	—	32,592	3,616	1,173	4,789	37,381
1	Mysore	27,936	5,538,482	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
	Total Native States	117,464	26,552,284	52,780	6,513	59,293	—	59,293	15,327	1,357	16,684	75,977
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	202,620	40,552,933	262,875	51,910	314,785	—	314,785	22,109	118,496	140,605	455,390

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1901.

	Madras.											
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	—	—	1,319	—	1,319	1,319
2	Chingleput	2,842	1,312,722	—	—	—	—	—	236	—	236	236
3	North Arcot	7,616	2,208,391	—	—	—	—	—	975	—	975	975
4	Anantapur	5,275	788,896	—	—	—	—	—	207	—	207	207
	Total Madras ..	24,455	5,601,912	—	—	—	—	—	2,737	—	2,737	2,737
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	786	—	786	—	786	531	4,665	5,196	5,982
2	Kaira	1,609	715,725	—	—	—	—	—	—	231	231	231
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,870	4,280	—	4,280	—	4,280	—	2,379	2,379	6,659
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	34	34

* Figures not reported.

NOTE.—The figures for the Native States of Phaltan and Kolhapur are for the week ending 24th August, 1901.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1901—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Bombay—cont.	Sq. Miles.										
5	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	37,160	6,231	43,391	—	43,391	853	15,084	15,937	59,328
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	72,975	12,723	85,698	—	85,698	—	23,838	23,838	109,536
7	Poona	5,369	995,074	12,600	4,582	17,182	—	17,182	—	5,098	5,098	22,280
8	Nasik	5,940	819,575	5,699	175	5,874	—	5,874	640	2,064	2,704	8,578
9	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	7,557	1,306	8,863	—	8,863	304	6,362	6,666	15,529
10	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	28,340	5,321	33,661	—	33,661	4,418	4,763	9,181	42,842
11	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	13,256	2,762	16,018	—	16,018	—	6,341	6,341	22,359
12	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	19	19
	Total Bombay ..	51,045	9,426,715	182,653	33,100	215,753	—	215,753	6,746	70,878	77,624	293,377
	Central Provinces.											
1	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	45	45
	Total Central Provinces	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	45	45
	Total British Provinces	78,639	15,411,958	182,653	33,100	215,753	—	215,753	9,528	70,878	80,406	296,159
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	62	146	208	208
3	Ratlam	729	83,000	—	—	—	—	—	145	—	145	145
	Total Central India States.	9,410	1,266,000	—	—	—	—	—	871	146	1,017	1,017
1	Hyderabad	28,698	11,537,040	2,639	—	2,639	—	2,639	1,077	—	1,077	3,716
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	19,536	—	19,536	—	19,536	9,023	—	9,023	28,559
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	2,841	—	2,841	—	2,841	1,213	69	1,282	4,123
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	—	—	—	—	—	111	55	166	166
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	460	—	460	—	460	—	107	107	567
4	Akalkot	498	75,774	150	—	150	—	150	—	194	194	344
5	Aundh	447	65,146	56	6	62	—	62	26	—	26	88
6	Phaltan	397	66,383	224	16	240	—	240	—	12	12	252
7	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	2,597	1,330	3,927	—	3,927	358	43	401	4,328
8	Jath	979	71,443	4,717	2,015	6,732	—	6,732	576	385	961	7,693
9	Daphlapur		8,343	466	—	466	—	466	—	113	113	579
10	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	428	195	623	—	623	—	17	17	640
11	Sangli	1,086	238,945	6,313	2,328	8,641	—	8,641	—	—	—	8,641
12	Kolhapur	2,145	705,251	127	—	127	—	127	—	—	—	127
13	Mudhol	361	61,815	2,178	—	2,178	—	2,178	1,001	161	1,162	3,340
14	Ramdurg	169	36,181	306	4	310	—	310	—	—	—	310
	Total Bombay Native States.	40,173	5,598,366	20,863	5,894	26,757	—	26,757	3,285	1,156	4,441	31,198
	Total Native States ..	86,507	20,816,802	43,038	5,894	48,932	—	48,932	14,256	1,302	15,558	64,490
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	165,146	36,228,760	225,691	38,994	264,685	—	264,685	23,784	72,180	95,964	360,649

NOTE.—The figures for the Native State of Kolhapur are for the week ending 21st September, 1901.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 26TH OCTOBER, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Madras.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,291,803	—	—	—	1,915	1,915	627	—	627	2,542
2	North Arcot	7,616	2,208,391	—	—	—	—	—	70	—	70	70
3	Anantapur	5,275	788,896	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	32	32
	Total Madras	21,613	4,289,190	—	—	—	1,915	1,915	729	—	729	2,644
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	—	—	—	—	—	563	2,521	3,084	3,084
2	Kaira	1,609	715,725	—	—	—	—	—	—	236	236	236
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,870	1,740	—	1,740	—	1,740	—	32	32	1,772
4	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	17,506	3,277	20,783	—	20,783	432	10,756	11,188	31,971
5	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	16,683	3,349	20,032	—	20,032	—	18,979	18,979	39,011
6	Poona	5,369	995,074	3,698	1,307	5,005	—	5,005	—	3,209	3,209	8,214
7	Nasik	5,940	819,575	1,381	238	1,619	—	1,619	305	—	305	1,924
8	Satara	4,987	1,146,521	668	75	743	—	743	106	649	755	1,498
9	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	17,021	3,449	20,470	—	20,470	4,016	4,625	8,641	29,111
10	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	8,497	1,616	10,113	—	10,113	—	3,914	3,914	14,027
11	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4
	Total Bombay ..	49,582	9,135,287	67,194	13,311	80,505	—	80,505	5,422	44,925	50,347	130,852
	Central Provinces.											
1	Balaghat	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
	Total Central Provinces	3,139	383,331	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	28	28
	Total British Provinces	74,334	13,807,808	67,194	13,311	80,505	1,915	82,420	6,179	44,925	51,104	133,524
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	51	17	68	68
3	Ratlam	729	83,000	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	44	44
	Total Central India States.	9,410	1,266,000	—	—	—	—	—	759	17	776	776
	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	17,822	—	17,822	—	17,822	9,552	—	9,552	27,374
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	7,113	—	7,113	—	7,113	1,692	63	1,755	8,868
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	1,128	—	1,128	—	1,128	173	60	233	1,361
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	147	—	147	—	147	—	109	109	256
4	Akalkot	498	75,774	127	—	127	—	127	—	120	120	247
5	Aundh	447	65,146	47	3	50	—	50	26	—	26	76
6	Phaltan	397	66,383	96	—	96	—	96	—	—	—	96
7	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	1,567	354	1,921	—	1,921	328	42	370	2,291
8	Jath	979	71,443	1,167	517	1,684	—	1,684	111	350	461	2,145
9	Daphlapur		8,343	46	—	46	—	46	—	7	7	53
10	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	39	16	55	—	55	—	6	6	61
11	Sangli	1,083	238,945	2,588	1,167	3,755	—	3,755	59	185	244	3,999
12	Mudhol	361	61,815	997	—	997	—	997	650	173	823	1,820
	Total Bombay Native States.	37,859	4,856,934	15,062	2,057	17,119	—	17,119	3,039	1,115	4,154	21,273
	Total Native States	55,495	8,538,330	32,884	2,057	34,941	—	34,941	13,350	1,132	14,482	49,423
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	129,829	22,346,138	100,078	15,368	115,446	1,915	117,361	19,529	46,057	65,586	182,947

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 30TH NOVEMBER, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Madras.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	1,524	1,524	502	—	502	2,026
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	1,524	1,524	502	—	502	2,026
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	485	—	485	—	485	1,039	3,439	4,478	4,963
2	Kaira	1,609	715,725	444	—	444	—	444	—	203	203	647
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,870	5,160	—	5,160	—	5,160	—	38	38	5,198
4	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	3,734	—	3,734	—	3,734	—	762	762	4,496
5	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	4,613	557	5,170	—	5,170	—	7,615	7,615	12,785
6	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	6,818	1,562	8,380	—	8,380	779	2,258	3,037	11,417
7	Belgaum	4,657	994,209	853	214	1,067	—	1,067	—	1,331	1,331	2,398
8	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14	14
9	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	364,168	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	29	29
	Total Bombay ..	46,015	6,538,285	22,107	2,333	24,440	—	24,440	1,847	15,660	17,507	41,947
	Total British Provinces	54,737	7,830,188	22,107	2,333	24,440	1,524	25,964	2,349	15,660	18,009	43,973
	Central India States.											
1	Indore	8,075	1,099,000	—	—	—	—	—	664	—	664	664
2	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	40	13	53	53
3	Ratlam	729	83,000	20	—	20	—	20	176	—	176	196
	Total Central India States.	9,410	1,266,000	20	—	20	—	20	880	13	893	913
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	17,117	—	17,117	—	17,117	10,067	—	10,067	27,184
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	7,515	238	7,753	—	7,753	1,328	76	1,404	9,157
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	4,623	—	4,623	—	4,623	461	64	525	5,148
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	1,520	—	1,520	—	1,520	—	53	53	1,573
4	Aundh	447	65,146	29	—	29	—	29	24	—	24	53
5	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	991	68	1,059	—	1,059	289	18	307	1,366
6	Daphlapur	979	8,343	46	—	46	—	46	—	7	7	53
7	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	12	—	12	—	12	—	—	—	12
8	Sangli	1,083	238,945	491	241	732	—	732	67	—	67	799
9	Mudhol	361	61,815	776	—	776	—	776	600	156	756	1,532
	Total Bombay Native States.	36,964	4,643,334	16,003	547	16,550	—	16,550	2,769	374	3,143	19,693
	Total Native States	54,600	8,324,730	33,140	547	33,687	—	33,687	13,716	387	14,103	47,790
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	109,337	16,154,918	55,247	2,880	58,127	1,524	59,651	16,065	16,047	32,112	91,763

FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28TH DECEMBER, 1901.

No.	Name of Province and District.	Area.	Population.	Relief works.			Number on test works.	Total on works.	Gratuitous relief.			GRAND TOTAL.
				Workers.	Dependants.	Total.			Poor-houses or kitchens.	Village doles and other relief.	Total.	
	Madras.	Sq. Miles.										
1	Cuddapah	8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	927	927	424	—	424	1,351
	Total Madras ..	8,722	1,291,903	—	—	—	927	927	424	—	424	1,351
	Bombay.											
1	Ahmedabad	3,949	795,094	13,241	1,032	14,273	—	14,273	1,364	6,132	7,496	21,769
2	Kaira	1,609	715,725	6,463	—	6,463	—	6,463	—	1,220	1,220	7,683
3	Panch Mahals	1,613	261,870	27,093	—	27,093	—	27,093	—	70	70	27,163
4	Broach	1,463	291,428	1,224	—	1,224	—	1,224	—	—	—	1,224
5	Sholapur	4,542	720,978	1,541	—	1,541	—	1,541	—	940	940	2,481
6	Ahmednagar	6,645	837,774	2,625	457	3,082	—	3,082	—	7,279	7,279	10,361
7	Bijapur	5,668	735,041	6,761	1,498	8,259	—	8,259	243	1,431	1,674	9,933
8	Dharwar	4,603	1,113,426	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	5
9	Thar and Parkar ..	12,729	364,168	—	—	—	—	—	159	3	162	162
	Total Bombay ..	42,821	5,835,504	58,948	2,987	61,935	—	61,935	1,766	17,080	18,846	80,781
	Punjab.											
1	Hissar	5,217	781,575	—	—	—	326	326	62	2,312	2,374	2,700
	Total Punjab ..	5,217	781,575	—	—	—	326	326	62	2,312	2,374	2,700
	Total British Provinces	56,760	7,908,982	58,948	2,987	61,935	1,253	63,188	2,252	19,392	21,644	84,832
	Rajputana States.											
1	Marwar	34,963	1,935,909	1,221	—	1,221	—	1,221	155	—	155	1,376
	Total Rajputana States	34,963	1,935,909	1,221	—	1,221	—	1,221	155	—	155	1,376
	Central India States.											
1	Jaora	606	84,000	—	—	—	—	—	49	—	49	49
2	Ratlam	729	83,000	228	—	228	—	228	42	—	42	270
	Total Central India States.	1,335	167,000	228	—	228	—	228	91	—	91	319
1	Baroda	8,226	2,415,396	20,222	—	20,222	—	20,222	11,155	—	11,155	31,377
	Bombay Native States.											
1	Kathiawar	20,559	2,752,404	8,320	419	8,739	—	8,739	1,374	229	1,603	10,342
2	Palanpur	7,775	645,526	7,404	—	7,404	—	7,404	621	64	685	8,089
3	Rewa Kantha	4,980	733,506	1,671	—	1,671	—	1,671	—	62	62	1,733
4	Jamkhandi	555	102,162	412	55	467	—	467	269	17	286	753
5	Daphlapur	979	8,343	26	—	26	—	26	—	—	—	26
6	Miraj (Junior)	225	35,487	18	—	18	—	18	—	—	—	18
7	Sangli	1,083	238,945	436	256	692	—	692	71	—	71	763
8	Mudhol	361	61,815	515	—	515	—	515	—	—	—	515
	Total Bombay Native States.	36,517	4,578,188	18,802	730	19,532	—	19,532	2,335	372	2,707	22,239
	Total Native States	81,041	9,096,493	40,473	730	41,203	—	41,203	13,736	372	14,108	55,311
	GRAND TOTAL, BRITISH PROVINCES AND NATIVE STATES.	137,801	17,005,475	99,421	3,717	103,138	1,253	104,391	15,988	19,764	35,752	140,143

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EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

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AND THE

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VOL. II.—NATIVE STATES.

[*In continuation of* Cd. 206 *of* 1900.]

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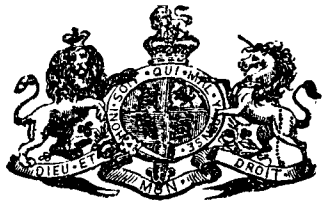

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I.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

STATES of the CENTRAL INDIA AGENCY.

No. 1.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Offg. Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5378 G., dated Indore, the 16th May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 4658 G., dated the 27th April, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statements* for the month of April, 1900, of the States in the Bhopal Agency noted on the margin, together with the Political Agent's letter No. 4 C., dated the 7th May, 1900.

Bhopal, Narsingarh, Kurwai, Pathari, Yusuf Muhammad Khan's Jagir, Sehore Agency limits.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Letter from J. Lang, Esq., Political Agent in Bhopal, to the First Assistant Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 4 C., dated Camp viâ *Sehore, the 7th May, 1900.*

I have the honour to submit herewith the Famine Statements * of the marginally named areas for the month of April, 1900.

Bhopal State, Narsingarh, Kurwai, Pathari, Yusuf Muhammad Khan's Jagir, Sehore Agency limits.

2. I took over charge of the Agency in the latter half of the month under report. I have inspected a number of relief centres in Narsingarh, where arrangements generally show much method and remarkable organization. The wages are somewhat liberal in the case of the better-to-do classes, but the necessity of making separate provision for dependants had hitherto not been recognized, nor perhaps had the necessity arisen. It was evident from the general condition of the children on the older established works that the time for opening kitchens where they may be regularly fed has now arrived. When this form of relief is in working order, the rest day allowance can be safely abolished, or the daily wage reduced. Economy also demands that the old and infirm should be fed in kitchens at three pice per head instead of being separately classed as workers so as to earn five pice each a day. Many distressful cases were seen in the poor-house, where room for improvement was noticed and suitable instructions given. In Narsingarh the poor-house population is composed chiefly of foreigners from neighbouring States of Central India and

* The detailed famine statements are not printed, but general statistics of the numbers on relief at the end of each month will be found at pp. 499–541 of Vol. I.

Rajputana. There were a few sporadic cases of cholera on the Khujner works at the end of the month, but the epidemic had not there appeared in virulent form.

3. The above remarks, so far as they suggest the possibility of further economies, apply with greater force to relief within Agency limits where the condition of the people is good, and their treatment inclined to be liberal. The comparatively large number of persons relieved by the Friends' Mission is deserving of notice. The fact is that, for want of works or establishment to supervise them, the bulk of people earn a working wage by sitting idle, an attractive form of relief which will account for the numbers. The organization is merely a question of time. The Sehore poor-house received a large increase of numbers at the end of the month, and was found too small for actual requirements. The management generally has been re-organized, and the whole placed under the immediate supervision of the Agency Surgeon. Village relief by daily cash doles to 59 selected paupers residing within Agency limits is properly administered, and with great success.

4. I have also succeeded in touring through the distant portions of the Rajgarh and Khilchipur States, at the head-quarters of which paupers in an emaciated condition have collected from Rajputana and elsewhere. In the districts generally I noticed no distress, but the condition of the inmates in the so-called poor-houses (there was not even an enclosure) indicates more distress than meets the eye. Taccavi and small relief works have been liberally opened, but this class of relief is not generally enjoyed except by labourers in the best condition. Advice was given personally to the Chiefs of each of the States named, and defects of management were pointed out on the spot. Tasks and measurements where checked were found adequate for the wages earned, which in their turn were neither too large nor too small. The condition of labourers on those works was sufficiently good.

No. 2.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6489 G., dated Indore, the 15th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 5660 G., dated the 25th May, 1900,* I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 2170, dated the 9th June, 1900, from the Political Agent in Bhopal, giving cover to the Famine Statements for the month of May, 1900, of the states in his Agency noted on the margin.

Bhopal, Rajgarh, Narsingarh, Khilchipur, Kurwai, Pathari, Maksudangarh, Basoda, Sehore Agency Limits, Shujalpur and Sonkach Parganas of Gwalior.

2. It will be seen that the Political Agent has spoken privately to the Rao of Khilchipur on the subject of the arrangements for relief in the Khilchipur State, mentioned in paragraph 2 of my letter cited above, and is satisfied that sufficient relief is given.

3. I have asked Mr. Lang what steps he has taken in regard to the alleged conduct of the officials at Biaora in suddenly reducing the relief given in the poor-house at that place, and the Resident at Gwalior has been requested to call the attention of the Darbar to the Political Agent's remarks regarding the Shujalpur and Sonkach Parganas of Gwalior.

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* Not printed.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

Letter from J. Lang, Esq., Political Agent in Bhopal, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 2170, dated Sehore, the 9th June, 1900.

Bhopal State, Rajgarh, Narsingarh, Khilchipur, Kurwai, Pathari, Maksudangarh, Basoda, Sehore Agency Limits, Shujalpur and Sonkach Parganas of Gwalior.

I have the honour to submit herewith the Famine Statements* of the marginally named areas for the month of May, 1900.

2. The tour which I commenced last April on taking over charge of the Agency was continued during the present month. I found cholera prevalent wherever I went. The fear of the disease scared people away. In the smaller independent States, there is always the danger of relief measures being "faked" up for the occasion of the Political Agent's visit. There have been instances of this in connection with the establishment of a poor-house at Biaora in the Rajgarh State, where my departure from State limits was signalised by the reduction of the poor-house population to 25 per cent. of the needy number whom I had inspected a few days before. It was satisfactory, therefore, on visiting the Piplia work under the management of the same State to find, after checking the accounts and registers of the last six weeks, that the work was indeed, what it pretended to be, a genuine attempt to afford adequate relief to the working classes. As to the poor-house at Biaora, a somewhat popular centre for wanderers, I have arranged to have a hand in the management myself.

3. In the Pachore and Khujner Parganas of the Narsingarh State, there were as many as twelve tank works open. This State being under the Political Agent's management, the details of famine relief had my special attention, so the principles of the North-Western Provinces Code have been introduced in practice. As stated in paragraph 2 of my letter No. 4 C., dated the 7th May, 1900, arrangements were found to err on the side of liberality, to be in fact unduly attractive. The economies then introduced, *viz.*, the reduction of the wage for adults and the provision of cooked food for non-working dependents, has brought down the numbers on relief works and on gratuitous relief from 8,877 and 712 to 6,198 and 1,451, respectively, in spite of increasing distress.

The four poor-houses established at the tahsil centres have been supplied with corrugated iron roofs, which, when heavy rain falls, will provide unusually good shelter. This measure of apparent extravagance has been rendered possible by the project of a city market for which the roofs will be used at the end of the famine.

4. In the Shujalpur and Sonkach Parganas of the Gwalior State, there have been many deaths from privation. The fact came late to my notice, for when I passed through the Shujalpur Pargana I saw no indication of distress, nor from my information had I reason to expect it

A system of sudden visits to the villages followed by the gratuitous distribution of grain through the village bania or the local headman has brought me in contact with the poorer classes, many of whom, though they remain at home, are in great distress. The present number of relief works is quite inadequate, although the people do tolerably well upon the inside of date palms and earn a few mouthfuls by the sale of fuel.

5. At Sonkach, the non-working paupers were not in such numbers as the condition of the villages would have led me to expect, but I was assured that four or five carts are filled daily with paupers, and despatched to a large poor-house near Maksi, which is outside my jurisdiction. There is no relief work in the pargana at all. On the apparent inadequacy of relief measures, the Assistant Director of Prant Malwa was promptly addressed.

6. Coming closer home, I have observed considerable distress in the Ashta Pargana of the Bhopal State. It is here in Bhopal that effective

* Not printed.

arrangements are now most needed. The Darbar with the very best of intentions appear to have been living in a fool's paradise, the extent of which has been brought into relief by the local works of the Friend's Mission. The head of the Mission, Mr. A. Taylor, has now nearly 10,000 Bhopali subjects collected on absolutely unremunerative work in and about Sehore, while the State shows work for 741. The Mission wages are so liberal and the task so light (from inability to check it in a rocky soil) that numbers are attracted who can support themselves. The scarcity of water and the outbreak of cholera render the presence of such crowds a source of danger. The Mission people have been asked to relieve the dependents by doles of cooked food instead of in cash, and the Darbar has been urgently addressed with a view to relieving the present pressure. In this matter (as always in the trail of my tour) the State will loyally co-operate. But ocular demonstration like money is much required, as reports from State subordinates seem very misleading. I recently met the State Engineer, Mr. Cook, out on tour, and the meeting, I hope, will produce good results. The statement of relief works in the Bhopal return needs verification.

7. I have also traversed the jungle hill tract to the south-east of the district, in order to ascertain the condition of its people. Many of the residents seemed to have lost condition. They live of course upon jungle products.

Beyond the forest tracts is the Hoshangabad district in the Central Provinces. The Deputy Commissioner of that place has, in answer to an enquiry that I had made, replied that he has observed no great in-rush of Bhopal subjects upon his works, but he agrees with me in thinking that the distress will intensify in those parts during the rains, and that special relief arrangements will probably be necessary. I propose to discuss the subject with the Minister next week when I proceed *viâ* Bhopal to tour in the north-eastern affected States.

No. 3.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8842 *G., dated Central India Agency, Indore, the* 17*th August*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7846 G., dated the 19th July, 1900,* I have the honour to submit in original, for the information of the Government of India, letter No 2779. dated the 12th August, 1900, received from the Political Agent in Bhopal, forwarding the Famine Statements for the month of July, 1900, from the marginally noted States in his Agency.

Bhopal, Rajgarh, Narsingarh, Khilchipur, Kurwai, Mahomedgarh, Hydergarh (Basoda), Yusuf Mahomed Khan's Jagir and Sehore Agency Limits.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

Letter from J. Lang, Esq, I.C.S., Political Agent in Bhopal, to the First Assistant to the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 2779, *dated Bhopal Political Agency, Sehore, the* 12*th August*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Statements* for the marginally noted areas during the month of July.

Bhopal State, Rajgarh, Narsingarh, Khilchipur, Kurwai, Mahomedgarh, Hydergarh (Basoda), Yusuf Mahomed Khan's Jagir and Sehore Agency Limits.

2. The feature of the month was the large increase of gratuitous relief in the more affected areas consequent upon the good rainfall which rendered the closing of several relief works possible. The rainfall has been well distributed, varying between 21·8 inches in the Sonkach Pargana of Gwalior and 9·4 inches in the Khilchipur State, and the autumn crops sown are doing well.

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* Not printed.

3. My tour this month took me through the Nimawar District of the Indore State, whence emigrants were reported to be frequenting the kitchens in the Central Provinces. I visited relief centres at Nimawar, Kanode, Kantaphor, Khatagaon, etc., and distributed clothing to some 3,000 paupers. Observations in detail have been separately reported.

In Kurwai and the Sironj Pargana of Tonk I found arrangements respectively adequate and fair. In regard to Sironj, I have communicated my suggestions to the Political Agent, Deoli. The Famine Statements for the outlying Parganas in this Agency of Tonk, Gwalior and Indore, are not submitted from this office.

4. There was a marked increase in the cattle mortality after the rains broke, while a large number of bullocks have been exported from Sehore to Bombay and Rajputana.

No. 4.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. C. S. Bayley, I.C.S., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 9815 G., dated Indore, the 19th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 8842 G., dated the 17th August, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 3043, dated the 14th September, 1900, from the Political Agent in Bhopal, forwarding the famine statements for the month of August, 1900, from the States in his Agency noted on the margin.

Bhopal, Rajgarh, Narsingarh, Khilchipur, Kurwai, Basoda and Sehore Agency Limits.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

Letter from J. Lang, Esq., I.C.S., Political Agent in Bhopal, to the First Assistant to the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 3043, dated Bhopal, the 14th September, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the famine statements* for the marginally noted areas during the month of August, 1900.

Bhopal, Rajgarh, Narsingarh, Khilchipur, Kurwai, Basoda and Sehore Agency Limits.

2. There is often a tendency in Native States to close relief measures prematurely when the rains commence. I accordingly visited practically all the relief centres in the affected area in order to keep the Darbars up to the mark. There has been considerable distress in the smaller poor-houses, owing, perhaps, to the insidious weather. The Gwalior people have been busy in recalling their subjects from the various poor-houses within this Agency. The Deputy Commissioner of Hoshangabad reports that the few emigrants from this Agency have been recalled.

The rainfall has been ample and well distributed, but anxiety has been caused for want of a break. There has been little opportunity for weeding, and now the jowar is beginning to wither.

No. 5.

Lettter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4730 *G., dated Indore, the* 30*th April*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 4511 G., dated the 23rd April, 1900,* I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, a letter, No. 1174, dated the 24th April, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's diary for the week ending the 20th April, 1900.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 14*th to* 20*th April*, 1900.

14*th April.*—Sacranda to Sarwan. Inspected Bhil villages on the way. No distress apparent, though water is becoming very scarce. On my arrival in Sarwan, I found that the Thakur, whose absence I have already referred to in my diary of April 1st, had not yet returned. His Kamdar stated that he believed the Thakur to be then on his way, which subsequently proved to be correct. Work had been commenced on a tank near Sarwan, and on this day 321 persons were at work. They were all of them Bhils. I have already reported on the state of the Bhils of Sarwan in my diary for 1st April.

15*th April.*—Sarwan to Namli Railway Station, *viâ* Sailana and Dhamnod, and thence by train to Neemuch. On my way through Sailana I had a few minutes' conversation with His Highness the Raja. He told me that the tank on which relief workers had been hitherto engaged was now completed, and that a new work had been commenced on a tank close under the walls of the palace. I saw the Rutlam work at Dhamnod in full swing. A visit from His Highness the Raja was expected this morning.

At Namli I was unable to see the Thakur, who sent a message to say that that he had fever. I told his Kamdar that I was very dissatisfied with what I had seen of the relief works instituted by the Thakur of Namli, and that I should report unfavourably on them to the Political Agent. The Kamdar acknowledged that the relief provided was inadequate, and regretted that the Thakur should be under the influence of bad advisers.

16*th to* 20*th April.*—Neemuch.

No. 6.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5193 *G., dated Indore, the* 12*th May*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 4730 G., dated the 30th April, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, a letter, No. 156 C., dated the 5th May, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's Diary for the week ending on the 27th April, 1900, together with a detailed report by him on relief works at Barandi of Jaora.

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* Not printed.

2. I quite concur in Captain Cubitt's commendation of the arrangements which the Jaora Darbar has made for famine relief. The result of my inspection early in April of the poor-house at Jaora and of the relief work at Hariakhera was to convince me that the Darbar was doing all in its power to administer relief on proper lines.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 21st to 27th April, 1900.

April 21st.—Neemuch. I accompanied the Political Agent on his inspection of the Gwalior State relief works at Sagrana and the poor-house at Kanauti.

April 22nd and 23rd.—Neemuch. Nothing to record.

April 24th.—Neemuch to Malhargarh (Jaori) by train, and thence on to Jaora in the evening. I inspected the poor-house at Malhargarh, of which the Tahsildar of that district is the Superintendent. There were 288 inmates. Condition of people fairly good. No cases of extreme emaciation. Immigrants from other States are apparently freely admitted, as there were many of them in the poor-house who are said to have come in from Gwalior territory. The poor-house is clean and well kept. Cholera appeared on the neighbouring relief works at Salauri on the 16th instant, on which occasion there was 1 seizure and 1 death. The same occurred on the 17th, and on the 18th numbers rose to 16 cases and 8 deaths on the work, and appeared for the first time in the poor-house with 11 seizures and 3 deaths. The number of cases on the work having risen to 28 a day by the 22nd instant, the Minister gave orders for work to be opened on another tank, 9 miles away, at Kamlia, whither all workers have now gone. No information is yet available to show whether there have been any cases of cholera at Kamlia. The epidemic did not seriously attack the poor-house, and the number of fresh cases is diminishing daily. Arrangements for segregation are good. Disinfectants are freely used in the poor-house, and permanganate of potassium is regularly mixed with the water in the wells. Milk and nourishing diet is provided for the patients. Out of 27 seizures in the poor-house, only 6 have resulted in death.

April 25th.—Jaora. Inspected poor-houses; 1,732 inmates. General condition good. Cholera broke out on the 15th instant. In order to minimise its ravages among so large a number of persons, the poor-house has now been divided into three parts—two new houses being opened in the vicinity, and large numbers of paupers from the old poor-house having been drafted into them. Up to the present 199 persons have been attacked, of which number 116 have died, and 83 are under treatment. The number of new cases appears now to be decreasing, but whether permanently or not it is impossible to say. Under the superintendence of Mr. Hormusji, the State Doctor, every effort is being made by the local officials to stamp out the epidemic, and to alleviate the sufferings of the patients. They are provided with brandy, milk, and soda-water. The interiors of the poor-houses are kept scrupulously clean, and are thoroughly disinfected. In the afternoon I inspected the works at Hariakhera, 3 miles from Jaora, for the fourth time since their commencement. There were 2,430 workers and 640 dependants. The advice regarding management and the system of accounts recommended by the North-Western Provinces Famine Code, have been applied to this work, and are giving very good results. The application of the principles laid down in this code has greatly improved the organisation of this work. I consider it is now very satisfactory, and the good condition of the people strengthens the proof provided by the registers that they are not defrauded. The returns sent in daily to the Darbar office by the Superintendent render any misappropriation of funds difficult to execute—if the Central officer carefully uses the various checks on his subordinates thus afforded to him. Cholera appeared here on the 23rd instant, with 18 cases and 6 deaths. Segregation and medical arrangements good. The Superintendent has great

difficulty in preventing the removal of cholera patients from the hospital by their relatives, who usually desire to carry them off to their houses, as they consider it derogatory to allow them to die at the works. If cholera continues to increase here, this work will be removed to another site.

April 26th.—Jaora. Visited relief works on a tank at Barandi, 9 miles from Jaora; 2,667 attendants. Condition good. North-Western Provinces Code in use, and giving excellent results. The necessary forms have been translated into the vernacular, a better class of gang mohurrir than was formerly employed in this State has now been engaged, and from the central officer to the mohurrirs, all unite to praise the easy working of the system. No cholera yet, but arrangements have been made to meet it. Ploughing operations are now beginning, and the better class of cultivators are leaving the works. Their women, however, remain; and, as this exodus of men will probably continue, it will shortly become most difficult to find sufficient diggers to provide work for the large number of carriers. The condition of plough oxen in this part seems very good. Water is fairly plentiful. I think there is no doubt that numbers on relief have now reached their highest figure, and will continue to slowly diminish until the advent of the rains provide agricultural employment for even the poorest classes. The Minister is at present engaged on a scheme to provide work as far as possible for such as will not be able to find employment in the fields during the rains. For Jaora itself he suggests stone-breaking under cover. All poor-houses which are likely to be occupied during the rains will be rendered as water-proof as possible by the first week of June.

April 27th.—Jaora to Indore.

No. 7.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5987 G., dated Indore, the 2nd June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 5193 G., dated the 12th May, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 226 C., dated the 17th May, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's diary from 28th April to the 11th May, 1900.

2. A copy of Lieutenant Stewart's remarks has been sent to the Resident at Indore, who has been instructed to invite the special attention of the Darbar to the necessity for improving the poor-houses and to the inadequacy of the relief afforded to children.

Enclosure in No. 7.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 28th April to 11th May, 1900, dated Agar, the 14th May, 1900.

28th-30th April.—Indore. Nothing to record.

1st May.—Indore to Neemuch.

2nd May.—Neemuch.

3rd May.—Neemuch to Manasa (Indore). I left Neemuch this morning with the Political Agent in order to accompany him during his tour through the Rampura and Bhanpura Tahsils of Indore to Agar, Mehidpur and Tal. We found a few people employed on the Neemuch-Manasa road. This work is situated in Gwalior territory. The condition of the workers was very good, and most of them said they were inhabitants of Neemuch. At some of the

villages we visited, we were told that, at the commencement of the famine, deaths from starvation had occurred among the Bhils, but that none had died recently. The condition of all persons we saw was good. A slight outbreak of cholera had occurred here, but the epidemic now seems to have died out. We inspected Indore State relief works, the excavation of a tank, close to Manasa. 450 labourers present. Condition fairly good. Registers well kept, and, as far as it was possible to ascertain, the people themselves were in receipt of sufficient and regular wages. The only point in this connection, deserving of notice, is that no gratuitous relief is given to children who are too young to work, and here, as is generally the case, their condition was worse than that of the older children and adults. The local officials are unable to remedy this defect without orders from the Indore Darbar, but they have promised to represent the matter. In the afternoon I accompanied the Political Agent on a visit to the poor-house at Manasa; nearly 400 inmates. Condition fair. Once in the poor-house, they are not allowed to leave it again till discharged on account of the recent prevalence of cholera.

4th May.—Manasa to Kukraisa (Indore). We inspected relief works on a tank at Kukraisa. 700 attendants. Work commenced on the 7th April. The Indore Darbar has sanctioned Rs. 4,000 for the expenses of this work, of which sum Rs. 3,100 now remain. Condition of workers fair. Men were receiving 8 pice (Indori), women 6 pice, and children 4 pice. Fines are exacted for short work and late attendance. Daily task—100 cubic feet for one man, two women, and one child. No tools are provided by the State, and those the people bring with them are not suitable for the execution of such a task. The overseer stated this evening that, for the future, he is going to have it reduced very considerably.

5th May.—Kukraisa to Rampura. I accompanied the Political Agent to inspect the poor-house at Rampura. About 600 inmates. The arrangements for their shelter are of a highly unsatisfactory description. The situation is a mangoe grove, and, with the exception of a high thorn hedge which surrounds it, no preparations, other than those provided by nature, have been undertaken. The Amin stated that the poor-house had been till lately situated in a commodious building in the town; but that, on the outbreak of cholera, it had been considered wiser to remove the paupers to the present locality. The adult inmates presented a thin and depressed appearance, while the condition of the younger children was bad in the extreme. No nourishing food is provided for them, and milk does not appear among the articles of diet given by the local authorities. The famine here is severe, and relief measures have been started too late; consequently the condition of the people demands an extra amount of care and attention which they will not probably obtain. Afterwards we inspected relief works on the Rampura-Garote road. Work had commenced on the 1st April. The scale of wages, which prevails throughout Indore State, is that mentioned in the account of the works at Kukraisa. Here, as at the latter place, no gratuitous relief is afforded to children too young to work, but the Amin has promised to represent the matter. Work is also in hand on the excavation of a tank at Bamesar, 6 miles from Rampura. The registers show the number now on the works at 569, and the date of commencement as 24th April. Work is also proceeding on a second tank close to Rampura. 134 workers; commenced 18th March. The work now provided should be sufficient, but the state of the young children and the condition of the poor-house call for immediate notice.

6th May.—Rampura to Karauda. 500 persons are employed at Karauda on the excavation of two tanks. Another 500 are working on the Garote road. The poor-house, situated in the court-yard of an old temple, contains 93 inmates. Their condition was in no way superior to that of the inmates of the Rampura enclosure. Food given about eight chittacks. Cholera seems to have completely died out.

7th May.—Karauda to Garote. A tank work gives employment to 800 persons at Burkhera, midway between Karauda and Garote. In Garote itself 845 persons are similarly employed; besides which, upwards of

3,000 persons are working on the road. Work commenced here on the 25th February, and the condition of the people is noticeably better than at Rampura, a circumstance which would seem to be mainly due to the energy displayed by the Subah of Bhanpura, whose exertions compare more than favourably with those of the local officials of Rampura. 600 deaths from cholera have occurred in this pargana, but the epidemic has now subsided. Grain, 6 seers per rupee.

8th May.—Camp Garote. This morning we visited the poor-house. The shelter provided, *viz.*, huts made of branches and dry leaves, is scarcely adequate. The Subah says this will be improved before the rains. Great losses of cattle are said to have taken place in this Tahsil (Bhanpura). Owing to the long delay in opening relief works, the poorer cultivators are completely at the end of their resources, and cannot live away from the works ; therefore, even those who possess cattle are unable to indulge their present inclination, which is to prepare their fields for the next kharif crop. The Subah of Bhanpura stated that he had already addressed his Darbar on this subject, but had not as yet received any reply.

9th May.—Garote to Bholia. No works have been started at Bholia, but a poor-house containing to-day 318 persons has been opened there. The Superintendent stated that the food given was not weighed, and that the daily allowance was three flat cakes and a little dhalia. The cakes were small in size and unwholesome in appearance. The condition of the people plainly shows that this ration is insufficient ; and it is more than probable that the amount of food sanctioned by the Darbar is not given in full to the inmates.

10th May.—Bholia to Khotri. There are neither works nor poor-house at this place.

11th May.—Khotri to Patpura (Gwalior). No works. Since leaving Khotri the condition of the people seems clearly better, and continues to improve the further south we go.

No. 8.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6084 G., dated Indore, the 6th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 5987 G., dated the 2nd June, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Goverment of India, letters Nos. 1294 and 1327, dated the 28th and 30th May, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's Diaries from 12th to 18th and 19th to 25th May, 1900.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 12th to 18th May, 1900 (on tour with the Political Agent), dated Camp Tal, the 22nd May, 1900.

12th May.—Patpura to Susner (Gwalior). All work in the immediate vicinity of Susner has been stopped owing to an outbreak of cholera ; it has, however, been recommenced further up the Susner-Suhait road, on which 1,200 persons are employed.

13th May.—Susner to Mankheri (Gwalior). No work in progress here. Condition of people fairly good. Those who need relief can obtain it on the Susner-Suhait road.

14*th May.*—Mankheri to Agar (Gwalior).

15*th May.*—Camp Agar. I accompanied the Political Agent on a visit of inspection to the Agar poor-house. There were 5,400 inmates. Both the condition of the people and the arrangements made for their relief were very good. We were struck by the extremely robust appearance of many of the adult inmates, who were clearly capable of performing a useful day's work. The Political Agent recommended that they should be drafted on to the works.

16*th May.*—Agar.

17*th May.*—Agar to Piplaun (Gwalior). No work here, but those who require it can obtain employment on the Susner-Suhait road.

18*th May.*—Piplaun to Mankheri (Indore). People of Mankheri and surrounding villages who need relief and desire work, can obtain it on the Mehidpur-Patsi road. The condition of all I saw was good.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 19th to 25th May, 1900, dated Camp Piplodá, the 28th May, 1900.

19*th May.*—Mankheri to Mehidpur (Indore). 7,166 persons are at work on the Mehidpur-Patsi road, of which number 175 are subjects of other States. The total length of the road will be 19 miles, the earthwork of 16 miles has already been completed. The condition of the people was good. They have now recovered from a cholera scare which drove many away from the works, and the large numbers on relief prove conclusively that the management of the work is such as to allow of the people obtaining a sufficient subsistence. The work is divided into two divisions, each under a superintendent. Wages are paid in grain : a man receives 15 chittacks, a woman 11¼ chittacks, and a child fit to work, 7½. Nothing is given to dependants. Work commenced on the 20th of December with 200 workers. By the 22nd March, this number had risen to over 2,000. I think that very good work is being done here by the Indore Darbar. Mehidpur poor-house contains 380 inmates ; condition good, but shelter scanty ; clothing also very slight. There are altogether about 12,000 persons in receipt of relief in Mehidpur. The Subah furnishes the following figures, from which, if correct, the effects of famine and cholera in the Mehidpur Pargana can be accurately gauged. Population 38,000 :—

Deaths.	Number.
From all causes, year 1897–98	597
„ „ „ 1898–99	489
„ „ „ 1899–00	951
„ acknowledged starvation	76
„ „ cholera	47

But a large proportion of the deaths this year must be traceable to illnesses directly caused by privation.

21*st May.*—Kasari to Tal. I accompanied the Political Agent on a visit of inspection to the Tal poor-house. There were about 500 inmates. A neatly built, clearly kept poor-house, already prepared for occupation in the rains. Condition of people, on the whole, very good, though late arrivals were generally emaciated.

22*nd May*.—Camp Tal. Accompanied the Political Agent to inspect relief works at Karwa, three miles from Tal. About 3,000 attendants. Condition of people very good. Everything in the way of famine relief in Jaora State is most satisfactory.

23*rd May*.—Tal to Jaora. I left the Political Agent's camp to-day at Tal and proceeded to Jaora. In the evening, in the company of the minister, I inspected some of the inmates of the poor-house, who had been employed on light labour. Their condition was exceedingly good.

24*th May*.—Jaora. Nothing to record.

25*th May*.—Jaora. Visited works at Sujapur, seven miles from Jaora. 4,100 attendants. A tank is in process of excavation. An absurdly easy task has been imposed. The soil was so soft that it could almost be dug out with the hands, yet 25 cubic feet was the average amount of work done. Labourers take no pains to work, contenting themselves with the minimum wage. The condition of all was superlatively good. I have mentioned the matter to the minister, and have advocated a severe increase in the task. A strong man should without difficulty excavate 100 cubic feet in this soil. Large numbers of workers were cultivators, who, apparently allured by so easy a manner of obtaining a few pice, show no intention of returning to agricultural pursuits. A significant fact is that, in the case of several cultivators whom I questioned, I found that the headman of the family was on the works, while his brothers and relations were engaged in ploughing the lands—a circumstance which seems to me to demonstrate which of the two is considered the easiest form of labour. I had a talk with the minister regarding probable effect of the rains on the people. He is not inclined to think that the position of the cultivators this year will permit of their employing much labour outside their own families; that is to say, in the sowing operations. If this forecast is correct, the position of more than half the people now on works will be by no means improved until weeding commences.

No. 9.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6347 *G., dated Indore, the* 13*th June*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 6084 G., dated the 6th June, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 1413, dated the 6th June, 1900, received from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's Diary for the period from the 26th May to the 1st June, 1900.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 26*th May to* 1*st June*, 1900, *dated Jaora, the* 5*th June*, 1900.

26*th May*.—Jaora. Nothing to record.

27*th May*.—Jaora to Piploda. I inspected relief works which are situated on a tank near the Thakur's Summer House; 450 workers. Condition fairly good. There has been no cholera here. I think the work at Piploda is sufficient; and, although a good many people from here are frequently found on adjacent Jaora works, they probably only resort to them from convenience, and not from necessity.

28*th May*.—Piploda. Nothing to record.

29th May.—Piploda to Sailana. I inspected villages between Piploda and Sailana. The requirements of all are met by the relief works at either one or the other of these two places. The cattle appear to be very thin. At Bodina, a village belonging to the Thakur of Sarwan, I found that relief works had been opened since my last visit, but that they were now closed on account of an outbreak of cholera. This has now died out, and I would suggest that the relief works be re-opened. I am told that all persons requiring relief in this village resort freely to the works at either Sailana or at the Rutlam State work of Dhamnod. So long as this continues to be the case, these people are sufficiently provided for.

30th May.—Camp Sailana. His Highness the Raja personally conducted me to see the relief works in and about Sailana. The tank, which has hitherto been the main stand-by, has now been completed. The Raja has, therefore, commenced to construct a metalled road from Sailana to some sacred caves, distant about three miles. In addition to this road work, 75 wells have been or are in process of construction. I inspected several of these, and all I saw were well constructed. Work for 1,000 persons is provided by the road and these wells. The condition of the people is excellent. The Raja takes the keenest personal interest in his relief works, and, owing to the thorough manner in which they have been instituted in all parts of his State, I am confident that there has been little or no distress.

31st May.—Camp Sailana. Visited Puniakheri of Jaori, 9 miles from Sailana. A mixed population containing 70 or 80 jungle Bhils. 148 persons were engaged on the excavation of a tank. Condition very good. Same system of management and same payments as at all other Jaora works already reported on. From there I went to Amba, the residence of a Rathore Thakur, a jagirdar of Jaora. 350 persons were at work on a tank. The entire management of this work is in the hands of the Jaora Darbar. The condition of the people was good. I noticed several men on the work who had every appearance of being cultivators of comfortable circumstances. In some cases they admitted that it was so; and their neighbours were ready to supply information as to the amount of their land, and the number of oxen they possessed. In a very small isolated community like this one—for it is completely cut off from the rest of Jaora State—the Superintendent should be able to exercise discretion in admitting persons to relief, as everyone's circumstances must be fully known to all. At Karia, a village belonging to the Thakur of Sheogarh, I found that work on a tank had been commenced, but that it had now been closed for about three weeks. The villagers appeared to be in good condition, and stated that they were well off. This village has been free from cholera.

1st June.—Sailana to Namli. I inspected the Rutlam State relief works at Dhamnod. This work had at one time risen to 1,500 attendants; a week ago it consisted of 1,000, and now there are only 500. The decrease is accounted for by the cultivators returning to agricultural employment. The great majority of those who remain are of the poorest classes; but their condition was good. Many complaints were made to me that no gratuitous relief is now given to children too young to work. I have, subsequently, met the Rutlam Central Officer, and spoken to him about this. The reason for the new regulation is because it was found that the number of children attendant at the work had increased out of all usual proportion, and many of them belonged to fairly well-to-do cultivators who had themselves left the work. These have been eliminated, but those children who now remain are in poor condition, and most of them, I should say, deserving of relief. I do not think it will be wise to continue any longer so stringent a measure, and one which appears to have already effected the object for which it was intended. I inspected the large village of Dhamnod, and found no trace of famine there. The Thakur of Namli came to see me in the evening. He seems to take a keener interest in relief measures than was formerly the case with him.

No. 10.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7037 G., dated Indore, the 28th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 6347 G., dated the 13th June, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, letters Nos. 1531 and 1581, dated the 18th and 21st June, 1900, respectively, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Licutenant Stewart's diaries for the weeks ending on the 8th and 15th idem.

Enclosure 1 in No. 10.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 2nd to 8th June, 1900, dated Camp Bajna, the 15th June, 1900.

June 2nd, Camp Namli.—Relief works are in progress on several wells. An inspection of the vernacular registers showed that fairly regular work is now going on here. Distress in Namli is by no means great, and is much less than that which prevails at other villages belonging to this Thakur, notably at Sacranda and Kumer. With regard to these two villages, the Rutlam Central Officer, who met me here, assures me that sufficient work has now been opened. I shall visit Sacranda again in a few days.

June 3rd, Namli to Jaora.—I inspected several Rutlam and Jaora villages on the way, and saw no signs of distress of any sort. Agricultural operations are proceeding vigorously. I hear from the Rutlam Central Officer that great difficulty is being experienced in procuring seed grain for the makki crop. The stores of indigenous Malwa makki appear to have been consumed, and although grain can be easily imported, it is said that foreign seeds will not readily germinate in this locality, and in some cases refuse to do so at all. So there is considerable anxiety on this subject. At Sarsi, the Thakur is employing 150 persons on improvements to his house. Their condition was good, and I think the work is sufficient. Distress is exeeedingly slight here.

June 4th, Jaora.—Visited the poor-house. Numbers have greatly decreased since my last visit. There are now only about 1,200 inmates. This poor-house continues to be very well managed. With its well-constructed tile roof, it will afford highly efficient shelter during the rains. Cholera has completely died out.

June 5th, Jaora.—Visited work at Sujapur. A very large diminution in the number of workers has been effected since my last visit here on the 25th ultimo. There were then 4,100 ; now the number is under 2,000. The task is still too light, and the hours much too short. Few people do more than five hours' work. I hope eight hours will be exacted from them for the future.

June 6th, Jaora.—Discussed with the Minister the best plans for distributing help from the Charitable Relief Fund in Jaora State.

June 7th, Jaora to Rutlam.—I went with the Dewan of Rutlam to inspect the relief works on a tank at Kalmora. There were 400 persons on the relief works, and 100 others ordinarily employed on masonry work under a contractor. This work was opened to meet the requirements of the Dharar Tahsil, one in which there has not been very much distress. The condition of the people was good, but all were of poor classes and most of them Bhils. The proportion of children on all these works had lately much increased, the majority of whom were too young to work. ' It was found that many of them were the children of cultivators of comfortable circumstances, who had themselves left the work. An order was, therefore, issued by the Central Officer that in future no gratuitous relief was to be given to children dependents, save only to babies in arms. This had the effect of speedily eliminating those children who were not fit objects for

charity. But now there only remains the poorest classes, whose parents are also on the work, whose condition is often bad, and to whom I think it is most necessary that gratuitous relief should be given as before. I drew the attention of the Dewan to this matter, and I hope the prohibitory order will now be cancelled, as it has served its purpose.

June 8th, Rutlam.—I inspected two State poor-houses and a Famine Hospital; also a poor-house entirely supported by the local Mahajans. The State poor-houses are well kept, and the people properly fed and looked after. The shelter will not be sufficient after the monsoon bursts, but the people will then be removed to some empty houses in the city. Many of the inmates were wretchedly clad; but it appears that in several cases, although clothes had been given them by the State, they had taken the first opportunity for disposing of them in the bazaar. I think the people will be better able to appreciate presents of clothing after the rains come. The Famine Hospital also is well kept, and contains separate accommodation for 20 orphans. Cholera is practically extinct. The Mahajan's poor-house was instituted by them, on the Central Officer's advice, as a means of satisfying their charitable designs, which had formerly led only to indiscriminate alms-giving in the city. These poor-houses accommodate about 2,000 persons. Many of them are quite fit to work, but if drafted to the works at Dhamnod or Kalmora, they speedily return to the poor-house.

Enclosure 2 in No. 10.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 9th to 15th June, 1900.

June 9th.—Rutlam to Raoti (Sailana) and thence to Bajrangarh. Train to Raoti, where I inspected relief works on a tank. 300 workers. Condition good. On my way to Bajrangarh, I inspected Bhil huts on the estate of the Thakur of Raoti, and also some belonging to Sailana State. On the whole, the condition of these Bhils is fairly good. They are able to pick up a living in various ways, such as by selling grass and wood in the nearest towns. No men were to be seen in any of the huts I visited. Some of the women were in rather poor condition, more so than those who were at work on the tank. I asked them why they did not go to work, and they said they were unable to leave their children; but many women at work on the tank take their children.

June 10th.—Bajrangarh to Raoti, and thence by train to Neemuch.

June 11th and 12th.—Neemuch.

June 13th.—Neemuch to Rutlam.

June 14th.—Rutlam to Bajna. I passed numbers of Bhils on the road, carrying wood and pipal leaves into Rutlam. Their condition was good, and the fact that such as care to do so can procure a living in this way, protects them against famine. I saw no weak or emaciated people in any of the villages I passed through. On all sides the Bhils are repairing their huts or building new ones, and make no complaints. In several places I found them at work ploughing. In order to find out how the money of the Charitable Relief Fund might be best employed in this tahsil, I spoke to the Tahsildar of Bajna regarding the arrangements which it was proposed to make for helping the people with cattle and seeds. At present it is impossible to arrive at the number of cattle or the amount of seed which will be required for these Bhils. A house-to-house inspection is made annually by the Tahsildar of Bajna about the end of June or the beginning of July. Till this is done, local requirements can only be guessed at. Nothing will be lent by the State or Sowcars till the nature of this year's rains has declared itself. If good, the Tahsildar imagines that grain and cattle will be forthcoming in sufficient quantities. The plan to be followed is that all who have credit with the Sowcars will obtain advances from them in the usual way. Those to whom the Sowcars will not lend, the State proposes to provide for, on terms of easy repayment. Such loans would

be oftenest repaid in grain. It is most necessary that a poor-house or kitchen should be kept open at Bajna ; at any rate, for one month after the rains break, though I think the great majority will be able to return to ordinary work immediately. Large numbers have already gone ; those now remaining being a few of the very poorest, and also inhabitants of huts close to the work, who find that they can combine a day's work on the tank with the repair of their houses.

June 15th.—Camp Bajna. Inspected relief works on a tank near Bajna. 1,400 attendants. Their condition was very good. I spoke to several of the Bhils regarding their intentions when the rains break. They say they will return to their fields. They complain of a great loss of cattle, but it is believed that they exaggerate, having heard that the Darbar intends to supply those in greatest need on easy terms. They say that no help is to be expected from their Sowcars at present ; but that later on, if the rains are good, they will come of themselves to the Bhil cultivators, and beg them to accept assistance.

I inspected the poor-house. About 300 inmates. Their condition was very poor, and as some of them had been several weeks in receipt of relief, I think the present management cannot be very good. I spoke to Gouri Shanker, the Superintendent of the works, about this, and he has promised to see everything properly arranged before the rains come. This poor-house was formerly well kept, but there has been a change of managers. Another man will, I think, be employed in the place of the present official, whose short tenure of the post (2 months) has not given very satisfactory results. To account for the great difference in condition between the people on the works and those in the poor-house, it is believed the latter are immigrants.

No. 11.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7306 G., dated Indore, the 6th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7037 G., dated the 28th June, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 1677, dated the 28th June, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's diary for the week ending on the 22nd June, 1900.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 16th to 22nd June, 1900, dated Mandsaur, the 26th June, 1900.

16th June, 1900.—Bajnar to Kelkach. No signs of distress in any of the Bhil villages I visited on the way. Everywhere huts are being repaired. A little work on wells is progressing in Kelkach. As all who need relief from here have been allowed on the Bajna works, there has been no difficulty in finding employment.

17th June.—Kelkach to Sarwan. Condition of Bhils in all villages I passed through fair. The Thakur of Berda, whom I saw at his village, tells me that he has now no more money to expend on relief works, the small loan which he had obtained from the Rutlam Darbar being now spent. What is chiefly needed at Berda is taccavi advances. At Sarwan I found 250 persons at work on a tank. Their condition was good, and the amount done since my last visit here shows that work must have proceeded regularly. In the evening I saw a free distribution of grain to 400 Bhils. This is done daily. Most of them were in good condition, and should have been at work.

18*th June*.—Sarwan to Sailana. All persons in need of relief can obtain it, either at Sarwan or Sailana. I saw no signs of distress. Agricultural operations commencing.

19*th June*.—Sailana. Visited the poor-house. On account of cholera, the site has been removed to some sacred temples, 3 miles out of Sailana. This is scarcely as convenient as the original position; for, being at some distance from the town and in a very secluded place, persons needing immediate relief may be in doubt where to go. I think more attention might be bestowed on the orphans in this poor-house than appears to be given. Otherwise it satisfies requirements, though will do so more thoroughly when the site is changed back to the original one.

In the afternoon I visited the Rutlam works at Dhamnod. About 300 persons present. All cultivators have now left this work, those remaining being of the very poorest classes. The work is very well managed, and the condition of the people is good.

20*th June*.—Sailana. Revisited Dhamnod work. The same number present as yesterday.

21*st June*.—Sailana. Visited Sacranda on the estate of the Thakur of Namli. No work going on. A heavy fall of rain on the night of the 18th instant had left so much water in the tank upon which the relief workers were engaged that that form of occupation has had to be abandoned for the present. This tank work was taken up by the Thakur on the advice of the Rutlam Darbar, and somewhat against his inclinations. Previously he had expressed a preference for, and carried into execution, a rather unsatisfactory form of employment, which he called "jungle safai," and which consisted mainly in setting people to pick up stones and cut down bushes. As the tank work cannot be proceeded with just at present, and as the condition of the Bhils on this part of the Thakur's estate is worse than that of any others I know in this Agency, I think he should recommence the abandoned "jungle safai" till the tank is fit for working in again. It would be highly advantageous if the Rutlam Darbar were to bestow immediate supervision here.

22*nd June*.—Sailana to Neemuch.

No. 12.

Letter from the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7517 G., dated Indore, the 12th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7306 G., dated the 6th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 1781, dated the 7th July, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's diary for the week ending on the 29th June, 1900.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 23rd to 29th June, 1900.

23*rd to 25th June*.—Neemuch, to receive instructions from the Political Agent regarding the distribution of money from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund in the zilla of Mandsaur.

26*th June*.—Neemuch to Mandsaur. Interviewed Subah and Tahsildar of Mandsaur regarding the best manner of apportioning the money at my disposal among the three parganas of the zilla.

27*th June*.—Visited the poor-house. 1,300 inmates. All in good condition and fairly well clothed. All arrangements in this poor-house are most excellent.

28*th June*.—Mandsaur. Nothing to record. Waiting for cattle, which are daily expected from Sitamau.

29*th June*.—Mandsaur. Heard from Kamdar of Sitamau, saying that he is sending me 26 bullocks.

No. 13.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7845 *G., dated Indore, the* 19*th July*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7517 G., dated the 12th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 1802, dated the 11th July, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's diary for the week ending on the 6th July, 1900.

Enclosure in No. 13.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 30*th June to* 6*th July*, 1900.

30*th June*.—Mandsaur. Engaged in distributing cattle and grain to distressed cultivators on behalf of the Charitable Relief Fund. 26 bullocks arrived from Sitamau. Distributed them in the evening, together with 14½ maunds of grain.

1*st July*.—Mandsaur to Jaora, to buy cattle for Mandsaur.

2*nd July*.—Jaora. Bought 50 bullocks.

3*rd July*.—Jaora to Rutlam, to buy cattle for Mandsaur. Bought 10 bullocks.

4*th July*.—Rutlam to Mandsaur. The bullocks purchased in Jaora on the 2nd instant arrived here this evening.

5*th July*.—Mandsaur. Distributed bullocks and grain to cultivators of Bhanghar Tahsil of Mandsaur.

6*th July*.—Mandsaur. 30 bullocks arrived this evening from Tal (Jaora) and 10 from Rutlam.

No. 14.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7993 *G., dated Indore, the* 24*th July*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7845 G., dated the 19th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 1901, dated the 19th July, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's diary for the week ending on the 13th July, 1900.

Enclosure in No. 14.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 7th to 13th July, 1900.

7th July, 1900.—Mandsaur. Distributed 40 bullocks and Rs. 200 worth of grain to cultivators of Mandsaur Tahsil.

8th July.—Mandsaur to Neemuch, to see the Political Agent regarding a distribution of cattle among the Bhil cultivators on the estates of the Rutlam Jagirdars of Sarwan, Namli and Benda.

9th to 11th July.—Neemuch. Nothing to record.

12th July.—Neemuch to Sailana. Good rain has fallen round Namli and Sailana. Ploughing operations are proceeding vigourously. In some parts the new crop is already 4 or 5 inches high. This has been very prematurely sown, and a prolonged break in the rains will result in its destruction. In the evening I visited a few villages round Sailana. Ploughing was going on everywhere, and the condition of the people outwardly good. A few people are still at work on the tank near the city, and the poor-house contains 180 inmates.

13th July.—Sailana. Heavy rain fell last night. Over 6 inches is now recorded here. Visited Rutlam State relief work at Dhamnod. There are now only 80 workers, all others having returned to their villages of their own accord. After two or three days more of heavy rain, work on this tank will be no longer practicable.

No. 15.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8194 G., dated Indore, the 28th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7993 G., dated the 24th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 1957, dated the 24th July, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's diary for the week ending on the 20th July, 1900.

2. I have instructed the Political Agent to see that the necessary arrangements are made for the distribution of grain in the Sarwan Estate of Rutlam.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from the 14th to 20th July, 1900, *dated Mandsaur, the 23rd July*, 1900.

14th July, 1900.—Sailana. Heavy rain fell last night and during the greater part of the morning. In the evening I visited the tank work at Dhamnod; 80 people were present. There is a good deal of water now in this tank, and it will not be possible to continue the work after many more heavy falls of rain.

15th July.—Sailana. Visited poor-house. 180 inmates. This institution now re-occupies its original site, that temporarily used having been found unsuitable. The present building is well protected against rain, and was quite dry and watertight in spite of the recent downpours. The people are in very fair condition, and all have received blankets from money supplied by the Charitable Fund.

16*th July*.—Sailana to Namli by road, and thence by train to Jaora, to attend the weekly cattle market held there. Bought 71 bullocks for distribution among the Bhil cultivators on the estates of the Rutlam Jagirdars of Sarwan, Benda and Namli.

17*th July*.—Jaora to Sailana. Engaged in arranging fodder-supply for cattle bought yesterday in Jaora.

18*th July*.—Sailana. Cattle arrived to-day from Jaora. Despatched them to Sarwan, where the distribution is to take place.

19*th July*.—Sailana to Sarwan. Distributed the cattle I had sent here yesterday. Many complaints were made to me at villages I passed through and by people on the road that no grain advances were being made by the Thakur. I spoke to him about this, and he said that such statements were untrue, and that good arrangements are being made Returned in the evening to Sailana, where I met the Rutlam Central Famine Officer, who is at present engaged in inspecting villages in the Dhamnod Tahsil. I told him about the complaints made by the people of Sarwan, and he suggests sending the Naib Dewán there to make enquiries, which I hope will be done.

20*th July*.—Sailana. Despatched my camp by road to Mandsaur, where I will join it, after visiting the cattle market to be held to-morrow in Mandli of Dewas.

No. 16.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8484 *G., dated Indore, the* 6*th August*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 8194 G., dated the 28th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 2090, dated the 3rd August, 1900, from the Political Agent in Malwa, forwarding Lieutenant Stewart's Diary for the fortnight ending on the 3rd August, 1900.

Enclosure in No. 16.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant in Malwa, from 21*st July to* 3*rd August*, 1900.

21*st July*, 1900.—Sailana to Namli by road, and thence by train to Dodhar, hoping to be able to get from thence to Mandwi in Dewas, where a large cattle market is held. Finding I could not arrive in time for the market, went on by the evening train to Mandsaur.

22*nd July*.—Mandsaur. Heard from the Minister of Jaora, advising me of the despatch of 28 bullocks to Mandsaur.

23*rd July*.—Mandsaur. 28 bullocks arrived from Tal. I distributed them in the evening to distressed cultivators of the Nahangarh Tahsil of Mandsaur. Food-grain and a small allowance for fodder were also given to each cultivator.

24*th July*.—Mandsaur. Sent on my camp to Sitamau, where I propose to go to-morrow in order to attend the cattle market held there every Thursday.

25*th July*.—Mandsaur to Sitamau. Heavy rain fell last night, and roads nearly impassable. The makka crop seems everywhere to be doing well. In this locality it is now 4 or 5 inches high. At all the villages I visited to-day, the cultivators told me that they had had excellent rain ; and in places where it

had been heaviest, some said they did not want any more for at least 15 days. In another week there should be a sufficient supply of green grass for the cattle. The Kamdar came to see me in the evening, and told me what arrangements he was making regarding taccavi advances. They should be sufficient as stated by him.

26th July.—Sitamau. The poor-house has been closed and burnt on account of the severity of a cholera epidemic. In its place kitchens have been established. This morning I visited the kitchen at Laduna. I found there 150 persons, mostly women and children. Condition generally good. All have been recently supplied by the State with new clothes. I inspected the registers of this kitchen, and found that they had been well and regularly kept. There are other kitchens in the State at Titrod and Bhagore. In the afternoon I attended the cattle fair and purchased 98 bullocks for Mandsaur. They will be sent on to-morrow.

27th July.—Sitamau to Mandsaur. Returned to Mandsaur in order to distribute the cattle purchased yesterday. They arrived in the evening.

28th July, 1900,—Mandsaur. Owing to heavy rain I was unable to distribute any cattle to-day.

29th July.—Mandsaur to Neemuch. In the morning I distributed 98 bullocks to cultivators of the Nahangarh and Mandsaur tahsils, together with food-grain and a small allowance for fodder. As I have completed the distribution of cattle and food-grain to the extent of the allotment made to me by the Political Agent from the Charitable Fund, viz., Rs. 5,000 to Mandsaur, and Rs. 1,000 for the Rutlam Jagirdars of Sarwan, Namli and Berda, a short account is now given as to the manner in which this distribution has taken place. In the case of the Rutlam Jagirdars, I have obtained lists of the most deserving and poorest cultivators from the Dewan of Rutlam. From his lists I selected the very poorest to the extent of my allotment, and personally distributed cattle to them. The cattle required for this purpose were brought by me in Jaora. I caused all cattle which I distributed on these estates to be branded on the near hind quarter with the letters C. F. (Charitable Fund), in order to facilitate the work of the Darbar officials in the periodical visits of inspection which they have pledged themselves to make, and also in the hopes of frustrating any attempts which might be made to wrongfully dispose of them, either willingly by the owners, or on the false representations of petty officials. I have in my possession lists showing the names and condition of all persons to whom cattle were given. With regard to the Mandsaur Zillah of Gwalior State, to which Rs. 5,000 was allotted by the Political Agent, lists of the most needy cultivators were prepared by the tahsildars of the three parganas which comprise the zillah, viz., Mandsaur, Bhangarh and Nahangarh. These lists were made out under the superintendence of the Subah. After questioning all such persons, and comparing their answers with the information regarding them given on the lists, I personally distributed to them, in the presence of their village patwaris, their tahsildars, and, in the case of one distribution, in the presence of the Subah also, cattle, food-grain and a small allowance (Rs. 1-8-0) per head of cattle for fodder. The object of this small allowance was to enable them to buy a few bundles of leaves and early grass in order to keep their animals going till the grass should be long enough for grazing. Lists of all persons so supplied, showing their names and condition, are in my possession and afford a ready means of check at any time. The tahsildars are pledged to visits of inspection and to report at once any mortality or cases of improper treatment. The cattle required for Mandsaur were purchased by me in Jaora, Rutlam and Sitamau. No money transactions of any sort took place, save only that of the allowance of Rs. 1-8-0 per head given for fodder.

I left Mandsaur by the evening train for Neemuch.

30th July to 3rd August.—Neemuch. In charge of Political Agent's office during his absence on leave.

No. 17.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2988 G., dated Indore, the 17th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2164 G., dated the 26th February, 1900,* I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement† furnished by the Indore State for the month of February, 1900.

2. The deaths from starvation mentioned in paragraph 7 of the remarks that accompany the statement include those which were mentioned in Colonel Pears's diary for the week ending on the 21st February. The figures now given are those which were compiled by the several Members of the State Council, who made tours of inspection previous to the commencement of real measures for famine relief, and I trust that the arrangements now made will prevent the occurrence of serious mortality in future.

Enclosure in No. 17.

Remarks by Nanak Chand, Minister to His Highness Maharaja Holkar, to accompany Famine Statement for the month ending 28th February, 1900, dated Darbar Office, Indore, the 8th March, 1900.

1. No rain fell in any district of the State.

2. The rabi has been sown 1,851 bighas in the Khargone district, 12,607 bighas in the Mehidpur district, 227 bighas in Petlawad Mahal of Indore district, 514 bighas in Narayangad, 668 bighas in Manasa, 446 bighas in Rampura in the Rampura district and 450 bighas in Garote in the Bhanpura district. The sowings in the other mahals are between 1½ and 2 annas.

3. The condition of standing crops is not satisfactory.

4. The prospects of harvest cannot precisely be foretold, but they may safely be put down as gloomy except in Nimawar, where the outturn is expected to be 8 annas in the rupee.

5. Food-supply will last for two months in the Mehidpur and Nimar districts, for four months in the Nimawar and Indore districts and for one month in Rampura and Bhanpura districts, but is being and will be supplemented by private trade and State help.

6. Many cattle have died and are dying in Rampura and Bhanpura districts. Conditon unsatisfactory all round and growing worse every day.

7. One thousand six hundred and fifteen deaths from starvation in Mehidpur district, 259 in Khargone district and 33 in Petlawad Mahal of Indore district have been reported up to this month. Deaths from starvation as reported by the Subahs were 25 to 30 a day in Rampura and Bhanpura districts and 25 to 30 throughout the whole month in Nimar.

8. There is no supply of fodder in Rampura and Bhanpura districts. Cattle subsist on leaves of trees. Fodder will last for about half a month in Nimar, for about one month and a half in Mehidpur, for about a month in Khargone and for about two months in Petlawad of Indore district.

9. Prices of food-grains remained stationary throughout the month.

10. Opium has been sown on 1,170 bighas in Mehidpur, and the sowings in all districts have generally been far below the average.

11. No change in the wages.

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* *See* page 162 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900. † Not printed.

No. 18.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4438 G., dated Indore, the 21st April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2988 G., dated the 17th March, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement* furnished by the Indore State, for the month of March, 1900, together with a map.†

Enclosure in No. 18.

Remarks by Nanak Chand, Minister to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, G.C.S.I., to accompany Famine Statement for the month ending 31st March, 1900, dated Darbar Office, Indore, the 7th April, 1900.

1. Nearly 5,520 persons are relieved by private charity without taking any labour from them in the State.

2. Persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in the poor-houses of the State are :—

State.	Persons.
Indore City	611
Rampura District	1,012
Bhanpura „	1,021
Nimar „	317
Mehidpur „	487
Total	3,448

These persons are given cooked food, *i.e.*, rice, dal, &c.

3. The works of constructing roads and of deepening wells and tanks are going on in and near all the affected areas.

4. Physically people are emaciated in places affected by famine, but owing to their being taken in the poor-houses they are improving now.

5. Three hundred and eight deaths from starvation have been reported to have occurred in the affected area in this month. Of this many are immigrants, and reports have not been received from all Mahals. I apprehend that probably another 100 should be added to the total deaths from starvation in the State during March. This is a vast improvement on February, and I trust we shall be better still this month.

6. Present food-supply will last for two months in Mehidpur and Nimar districts, for three months in the Nimawar and Indore districts.

7. Much grain is being imported, but the quantity is not known.

8. The rabi has been sown 1,581 bighas in the Khargone district, 12,607 bighas in Mehidpur district, 227 bighas in Petlawad Mahal of Indore district, 514 bighas in Narayangarh, 668 bighas in Manasa, 446 bighas in Rampura in the Rampura district, and 450 bighas in Garot in the Bhanpura district. The

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* Not printed. † Map not reproduced.

sowings in the other Mahals are between 1½ and 2 annas. The condition of standing crops is not satisfactory. The prospects of harvest cannot precisely be foretold, but they may safely be put down as gloomy, except in Nimawar, where the outturn is expected to be from 8 to 10 annas in the rupee.

9. No change in the wages.

10. Only 50 persons of the Indore State have been reported to have emigrated to the poor-house at Agar (Gwalior), but orders have been issued to deport them back to the State; 2,136 immigrants are being relieved in the State, but their number is increasing.

11. There is very little supply of regular fodder in Rampura, Bhanpura, Nimar and Khargone districts. Cattle subsist on leaves of trees, but fodder is expected to last for about a month in Mehidpur and in Petlawad.

12. Prices of food-grains remained almost stationary.

13. Opium has been sown in 1,170 bighas in Mehidpur, and the sowings in all districts have generally been far below the average.

No. 19.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5290 G., dated Indore, the 15th May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 4438 G., dated the 21st April, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement* furnished by the Indore State for the month of April, 1900, together with a map†.

Enclosure in No. 19.

Remarks by Nanak Chand, Minister to His Highness Maharaja Holkar, to accompany Famine Statement for the month ending 30th April, 1900, dated Darbar Office, Indore, the 5th May, 1900.

1. Nearly 6,015 persons are relieved by private charity without taking any labour from them.

2. Persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in the poor-houses of the State are :—

State.	Persons.
Indore City	615
Rampura District	1,013
Bhanpura District	1,017
Nimar District	312
Mehidpore District	523
Nimawar District	353
Total	3,833

* Not printed. † Map not reproduced.

3. The work of constructing roads and of deepening wells and tanks is going on in and near all the affected areas.

4. Physically people are emaciated in places affected by famine, but, owing to their being taken in the poor-houses, they are improving now. Owing to the prevalence of cholera their numbers on relief works are falling.

5. Three hundred and thirty-three deaths from starvation have been reported to have occurred in this month.

6. Owing to importation, grain is available.

7. The exact quantity of the imported grain is not known.

8. The rabi has been harvested, and there is no crop standing in the fields now. Agricultural operations have been commenced in some places.

9. No change in the wages.

10. Indore subjects reported to have emigrated have been brought back. One thousand three hundred and sixty-eight immigrants are being relieved in the State.

11. There is very little fodder in Rampura, Bhanpura, Nimar and Khargone districts. Cattle subsist on leaves of trees and karbi.

12. Prices of food-grains remain almost stationary.

13. Opium has been havested. Its out-turn is not yet known.

No. 20.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6446 *G., dated Indore, the* 15*th June*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 5290 G., dated the 15th May, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement * furnished by the Resident at Indore for the month of May, 1900, together with a map † of the affected area.

2. With reference to paragraph 9 of the remarks of the Minister to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar accompanying the statement, I enclose a copy of a letter No. 2578 G., dated the 13th June, 1900, from Colonel Jennings, explaining the nature of the change in the rate of wages which has been made.

Enclosure 1 in No. 20.

Remarks by Nanak Chand, Minister to His Highness Maharaja Holkar, to accompany Famine Statement for the month ending 31*st May*, 1900, *dated Indore, the* 6*th June*, 1900.

1. Nearly 6,939 persons are relieved by private charity without taking any labour from them.

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* Not printed. † Map not reproduced.

2. Persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in the poor-houses of the State are :—

——	Persons.
Indore City	930
Rampura District	1,989
Bhanpura „	791
Nimar „	456
Mehidpur „	680
Nimawar „	379
Total ...	5,225

3. The work of constructing roads and deepening wells and tanks is going on in and near all the affected areas.

4. The physical condition of the people is better than it was in the last month. Doctors have been appointed at proper places, and measures taken to prevent cholera.

5. 346 deaths from starvation have been reported to have occurred in this month.

6. Owing to importation grain is available.

7. The exact quantity of imported grain is not known.

8. Agricultural operations have been commenced in some places.

9. There has been a change in the wages during the month.

10. Indore subjects reported to have emigrated have been brought back. 1,287 immigrants are being relieved in the State.

11. There is very little fodder, while in some places it is not at all. Cattle subsist on leaves of trees and kadbi, and many die of starvation.

12. Prices of food-grains are almost stationary.

13. Opium is not in the fields.

Enclosure 2 in No. 20.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Jennings, R.E., Resident at Indore, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 2578 G., dated Indore, the 13th June, 1900.

I have the honour to inform you that the Indore Minister reports that the following order has been passed regulating the scale of wages to persons on famine relief :—

"The farmers, &c., employed on relief works being given sufficient wages, will not be willing to turn to cultivation. Hence the following wages are settled to be paid to the workers : 1½ annas to each man ; 1¼ annas to each woman ; 1 anna to each worker above 10 years of age has been already settled before. ½ anna to each boy between 3 and 10 years of age, and ¼ anna to each boy under 3 years. The labourers on relief works should be paid according to the above."

2. This cutting down of wages, I beg to explain, is in accordance with my advice—*vide* paragraph 2 of my letter No. 2317 G., dated the 28th May, 1900, to your address—in order to induce cultivators to return to their fields. It is also recommended by Captain Cubitt in his circular, a copy of which I received with your No. 6254, dated the 9th June, 1900.

3. I have addressed the Darbar in terms of your last-quoted letter.

No. 21.

Letter from the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7550 G., dated Indore, the 13th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 6446 G., dated the 15th June, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, the Famine Statement* furnished by the Resident at Indore for the month of June, 1900, together with a map† of the affected area.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Remarks by Nanak Chand, Minister to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, to accompany Famine Statement for the month ending 30th June, 1900, dated Indore, the 7th July, 1900.

1. Nearly 4,948 persons are relieved by private charity without taking any labour from them.

2. Persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in the poor-houses of the State are :—

—	Persons.
Indore City	905
Rampur District...	2,105
Bhanpura „	1,503
Nimar „	346
Mehidpur „	499
Nimawar „	451
Total	5,809

3. The work of constructing roads and of deepening wells and tanks is going on, but the number of workers is falling owing to the commencement of agricultural operations.

4. The physical condition of the people is improving. Cholera is decreasing.

5. 355 deaths from starvation have been reported to have occurred during the month.

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* Not printed. † Map not reproduced.

6. Grain is available owing to importation.

7. The exact quantity of the imported grain is not known.

8. Agricultural operations are in progress.

9. Wages have been reduced to 1½ anna per man, 1¼ anna per woman, 1 anna to each worker above 10 years, ½ anna between 3 and 10 years of age and ¼ anna to children below.

10. No information has been received as regards emigration or immigration.

11. There is very little quantity of fodder, while in some places it is not available at all: consequently cattle are dying. Grass has been imported from Jabalpur, &c., out of the grant of famine fund, and it has done and is doing great good.

12. Prices of food-grains continued fluctuating, but are nearly the same.

No. 22.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8689 *G., dated Indore, the* 14*th August*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7550 G., dated the 13th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, the Famine Statement* furnished by the Resident at Indore for the month of July, 1900, together with a map† of the area affected.

Enclosure in No. 22.

Remarks by Nanak Chand, Minister to His Highness Maharaja Holkar, to accompany Famine Statement for the month ending 31*st July*, 1900, *dated Indore, the 7th August*, 1900.

1. Nearly 3,746 persons were relieved daily by private charity without taking any labour from them.

2. Persons in daily receipt of gratuitous relief in the poor-houses of the State are:—

	Persons.
1. Indore city	1,645
2. „ district	708
3. Rampura „	1,522
4. Bhanpura „	2,025
5 Mehidpur „	575
6. Khargone „	999
7. Mandleshwar district	386
8. Nimawar „	296
Total	8,156

* Not printed. † Map not reproduced.

3. The work of constructing roads is going on. A few tanks are under repairs.

4. The physical condition of the people has much improved. A few doubtful cases of cholera were reported.

5. 273 deaths from starvation have been reported to have occurred during the month.

6. Grain is available everywhere.

7. The exact quantity of the imported grain is not known. Import is now decreasing.

8. Agricultural operations are in progress all over the State, and at many places makka sowings have nearly been finished and crops have grown up about one foot high.

9. No change in the rates of wages.

10. No emigration is reported. The number of immigrants on relief works and on gratuitous relief is 1,525.

11. There is no want of fodder. Green grass is growing at all places. Grass has also been purchased and imported into the State from the famine fund. It has been distributed in many Mahals and has done great good. The condition of cattle is every day improving.

12. Prices of food-grains are fluctuating, but slightly falling.

No. 23.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 9756 G., dated Indore, the 17th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 8689 G., dated the 14th August, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, the Famine Statement furnished by the Resident at Indore for the month of August, 1900, together with a map* of the area affected.

2. Enquiry is being made regarding the 145 deaths which are said to have occurred from starvation.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Remarks by Nanak Chand, Minister to His Highness Maharaja Holkar, to accompany Famine Statement for the month ending 31st August, 1900, dated Indore, the 7th September, 1900.

1. Nearly 1,378 persons were relieved daily by private charity without taking any labour from them.

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* Map not reproduced.

2. Persons in daily receipt of gratuitous relief in the State poor-houses are :—

		Persons.
1.	Indore City	1,847
2.	„ District	3,012
3.	Rampura „	1,345
4.	Bhanpura „	1,583
5.	Mehidpur „	673
6.	Khargone „	809
7.	Mandleshwar „	393
8.	Nimawar „	1,962
	Total	11,624

3. The work of constructing roads is going on. A few tanks are under repairs.

4. The physical condition of the people is much improved. Fever and dysentery are prevalent.

5. One hundred and forty-five deaths have been reported to have occurred from starvation.

6. Grain is available everywhere.

7. Quantity of the imported grain is not known. Importation is now diminished.

8. Agricultural operations are everywhere in progress and the condition of standing crops is good.

9. There was no change in the rates of wages.

10. Arrangements are being made to bring back the persons reported to have emigrated to British Nimar, Bhopal, Gwalior, &c. 1,357 immigrants are in receipt of relief in the State.

11. Green grass is available everywhere.

12. The prices of food-grains are falling everywhere.

13. Rainfall has been sufficient all over the State.

No. 24.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5504 G., dated Indore, the 21st May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 4573 G., dated the 25th April, 1900* I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement† furnished by the Resident at Gwalior for the month of April, 1900, together with a map‡ of the affected area.

* See page 490 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed. ‡ Map not reproduced.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Remarks by J. Filose, Esq., Famine Secretary.

Relief works in progress consist of construction of, and repairs to, kutcha-pucca roads, wells, tanks, canals, bunds, baories, &c. Tests works have been freely opened almost everywhere in the State, in order to determine the extent to which relief may be needed by the people. Gwalior to Sabalgarh and Sipri to Sheopore, two railway lines are under survey, and abundant labour of all sorts will shortly be available on the same. Immigrants from adjoining States, and from Marwar and Mewar in particular, still continue to resort to this State where relief works provide free and unrestricted labour to all persons affected with famine. Poor-houses already exist at Neemuch, Agar and Amjhera, the last one being amalgamated with that at Sardarpore, under the supervision of the Political Agent. Owing to the great want of gratuitous relief in Mandasaur district, a poor-house has been ordered to be opened, which is now in working order. More relief works have been opened in Neemuch, Agar, Amjhera and Mandasaur districts, where famine is still reported to be severe. Relief works have also been opened lately in Ujjain and Shajapur Parganas. Emigration on any noticeable scale has not yet set in. The conditions of the people and cattle in Neemuch and a part of Mandasaur, Agar and Amjhera is bad, but no death from starvation of any Gwalior subjects has yet been reported. There has been a sudden outbreak of cholera in Agar and Neemuch poor-houses, and on some relief works in Amjhera district, and measures are being adopted to check the spread of the disease. The number of immigrants registered on various works on last day of the month is as under :—

Datia.	Jhansi.	Jaipur.	Udaipur.	Indore.	Dhar.	Marwar.	Ajmer.	Total.
83	3	93	52	5	2	36	10	284

No. 25.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6294 G., dated Indore, the 10th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 5504 G., dated the 21st May, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* furnished by the Resident at Gwalior for the month of May, 1900, together with a map† of the affected area.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Remarks by J. Filose, Esq., Famine Secretary.

Relief works in progress consist of construction of, and repairs to, katcha-pucca roads, wells, tanks, canals, bunds, baories, &c. Test works are still in progress almost everywhere in the State, in order to determine the extent to which relief may be needed by the people ; abundant labour will shortly be available on two railway lines under survey, *i.e.*, Gwalior to Sabalgarh and Sipri to Sheopore. Immigrants from the adjoining States still continue to resort to this State, where relief works provide free and unrestricted labour to all famine-stricken people. Poor-houses already exist at Neemuch, Agar,

* Not printed. † Map not reproduced.

Mandsaur and Amjhera, the last one being under the immediate supervision of the Political Agent, Bhopawar. Further want of gratuitous relief has made the Darbar to sanction another poor-house to be opened lately at Maksi, which will be in working order very shortly. More relief works have been opened in Neemuch, Agar and Mandsaur districts, where famine has been reported to be more severe. Lately the Darbar felt the necessity of opening relief works in parganas of Tonk and Badnagar. Emigration on any noticeable scale has not yet set in.

The conditions of the people and cattle in Neemuch and a part of Mandsaur, Agar and Amjhera is bad, but no deaths from starvation of any Gwalior subject has yet been reported. The cholera reported to have broken out in severity during the last month has now subsided to a large extent. The number of immigrants registered on various works on the last day of the month is as under :—

Jodhpur.	British.	Kotah.	Marwar.	Jeypur.	Indore.	Udaipur.	Patan.	Total.
139	3	1	219	124	175	9	5	675

No 26.

Letter from the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7673 G., dated Indore, the 16th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 6294 G., dated the 10th June, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* furnished by the Resident at Gwalior for the month of June, 1900, together with a map† of the affected area.

Enclosure in No. 26.

Remarks by H. C. Mukherji, Esq., Personal Assistant, Department Land Records, for Famine Secretary.

Relief works in progress consist of construction of, and repairs to, katcha-pucca roads, wells, tanks, canals, bunds and baories, &c. Test works are still in progress almost everywhere in the State, in order to determine the extent to which relief may be needed by the people. Immigrants from the adjoining States still continue to resort to this State, where relief works provide free and unrestricted labour to all famine-stricken people. Poor-houses already exist at Nimuch, Agar, Mandsaur and Amjhera, the last one being under the immediate supervision of the Political Agent, Bhopawar. Further want of gratuitous relief has made the Darbar to sanction another poor-house to be opened at Maksi, which is now in working order. Emigration on any noticeable scale has not yet set in. The condition of the people and cattle in Nimuch and part of Mandsaur, Agar and Amjhera is bad, but no death from starvation of any Gwalior subject has yet been reported. The number of emigrants registered on various works on the last day of the month is as under :—

Jodhpur.	Indore.	Dholpur.	British.	Patan.	Udaipur.
42	331	22	109	5	9

* Not printed. † Map not reproduced.

No. 27.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8640 G., dated Indore, the 11th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7673 G., dated the 16th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* furnished by the Resident at Gwalior for the month of July, 1900, together with a map† of the affected area.

Enclosure in No. 27.

Remarks.

Relief works in progress consist of construction of and repairs to kachapucca roads, wells, tanks, canals and bunds, &c., but, as the agricultural operations have begun throughout the State, the number of people on relief works has been considerably reduced.

Immigrants from adjoining States still continue to resort to this State, but in small number. Poor-houses already exist at Neemuch, Agar, Mandsaur, Amjhera and Maksi. No emigration to any noticeable scale has been reported. The condition of the people and cattle in Neemuch and part of Mandsaur, Agar, Amjhera and Shajapur is bad, but no death from starvation of any Gwalior subject has been reported. The number of immigrants registered on various works on last day of the month is as under :—

District.	Number.
Jhalrapatan	43
Tonk	12
Udaipur	5
Dhar	3
Total	63

No. 28.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 9755 G., dated Indore, the 17th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 8640 G., dated the 11th August, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* furnished by the Resident at Gwalior for the month of August, 1900, together with a map† of the affected area.

* Not printed. † Map not reproduced.

Enclosure in No. 28.

Remarks.

Relief works in progress consist of construction of and repairs to katcha-pucca roads, canals and bunds, &c., but as the agricultural operations are in progress throughout the State, the number of labourers on relief works has been considerably reduced, and such is the case with the number of inmates in the poor-houses at Neemuch, Mandsaur, Agar, Amjhera and Maksi which are existing since a long time. The immigrants from adjoining States still continue to resort to this State, but in very small numbers. No emigration has been reported, nor any death from starvation of Gwalior subject has occurred. The condition of the people all over the area affected with famine is getting fair.

The number of immigrants on last day of the month is as under :—

British.	Jaipur.	Dholpur.	Indore.
4	1	2	109

No. 29.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8744 G., dated Indore, the 15th August, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the letters noted on the margin, regarding famine relief measures in the Nimawar Pargana of the Indore State.

1. Letter No. 2661, dated the 28th July, 1900, from the Political Agent in Bhopal, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, and enclosures.
2. Letter No. 8306, dated the 1st August, 1900, from the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Resident at Indore.
3. Letter No. 3543 G., dated the 1st August, 1900, from the Resident at Indore to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, and enclosure.
4. Letter No. 3562 G., dated the 3rd August, 1900, from the Resident at Indore, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.
5. Letter No. 8566, dated the 9th August, 1900, from the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Resident at Indore.
6. Letter No. 3623 G., dated the 7th August, 1900, from the Resident at Indore, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, and enclosure.

2. The Nimawar Pargana is a somewhat inaccessible tract of country in the south-west of the Bhopal Agency, and it is only lately that the Political Agent has been able to visit it. The Indore Darbar has shown commendable promptitude in remedying the defects in famine administration pointed out by Mr. Lang.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

Letter from J. Lang, Esq., I.C.S., Political Agent in Bhopal, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 2661, dated Bhopal, the 28th July, 1900.

I have the honour to forward for your information, a copy of the notes recorded by me during a recent tour in the Nimawar Pargana of the Indore State.

2. The figures of relief for this district, which belongs to the Bhopal Agency, are incorporated, it is understood, in the Indore State returns. I regret that the Indore vakil at Sehore has hitherto failed to furnish me with any famine statements, so that I was much in the dark when I commenced the tour. In May last there was a great rush of Nimawar people into the Harda Subdivision of the Central Provinces, and the local British officer was given to understand that no relief was given in the Nimawar District. The statement of the Amin, who gave the information, has not borne the test of my investigation. For on the 9th May, when the assertion was made, I find by the registers that five kitchens were open and 896 people employed on road work.

3. There are undoubtedly large numbers of Indore subjects in receipt of relief in the Hoshangabad District, and the British authorities have good cause to complain. The Deputy Commissioner has received orders to make over to the Subah of Nimawar all immigrants from Indore, if practicable. At present, unless my recommendations in paragraph 11 of the accompanying note are adopted, the Subah will scarcely be in a position to receive them. A good Amin is required at Nimawar. I trust, therefore, that the Darbar may be moved to take early action so that when the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces visits Hoshangabad next week, he will no longer have any cause to complain.

Annexure.

Notes on Famine Inspection Tour in Nimawar District of the Indore State.

Harda, Central Provinces.—At Harda I met the Subdivisional Officer and the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshangabad, and accompanied them over the poor-house. The number of Indore subjects from the Nimawar District within the poor-house was 121. They should be removed by the Darbar.

Abgaon, Central Provinces.—Six miles further on towards Nimawar there was a large road relief work at Abgaon upon which I found several gangs of Indore subjects, who had left their district for want of employment.

Hundia, Central Provinces.—Seven miles beyond, at Hundia, which is on the opposite side of the river to Nimawar, I found 700 persons being fed in a Central Provinces kitchen. Thirty-three per cent. of this number, say 230, belonged to the Nimawar District. Half of them were fit to work, but 110 were decidedly run down. The conditions of relief were dangerously liberal. Anyone seeking relief was to be admitted without distinction, and practically everyone might eat as much as he liked, a privilege of which some fine strapping loafers were already availing.

2. *Nimawar, Indore State.*—Crossing over the river to Nimawar in the Indore State, I was met by Krishna Rao Gopal Deo, the Naib Subah, with whom I watched the feeding of some 300 paupers. The food was good, but the ration scarcely more than 3 chittacks to adults and children alike. The short ration will account for the rush of paupers to the kitchen across the water, and for the debilitated condition of those who remained. The Subah promised to double the ration. In the case of adults it might well be trebled. He assured me that the kitchen had been open since the 1st April, and daily accounts were produced which corroborated the assertion.

3. From Nimawar I went to Sundalpur, striking within 3 miles of Nimawar a newly-made famine relief road embankment.

Sundalpur.—At Sundalpur I found about 120 labourers employed on metal breaking. It was then about 9 a.m., and I was informed that many of the labourers had not yet come to work. The previous day's attendance roll showed the number present as 222, while on the 12th July there were only 138 in consequence of the rain. Some ordinary complaints regarding non-payment of wages were enquired into and rectified.

About 8,000 cubic feet of metal had been broken, at the rate of 6 annas (Hali) for 25 cubic feet, which has proved a day's task for four people. Practically each workman receives 6 pice, which, with grain at $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers a rupee, is a carrier's minimum wage according to our code. The task is a full one, but the metal is soft.

I saw also a small tank, the repairs of which at a cost of Rs. 194 (Rs. 100 from the State Rs. 94 from local subscription) had given employment to 2,370 units of people in October and November and for 10 days in March.

Gratuitous relief in the form of cooked food was generally alleged to have been given to the local paupers to a number not exceeding 300 for about three months from the 28th March to the 26th June, 1900. The cost had been paid by the State and the local

mahajans in the proportion of 1 to 2. This method of financing the relief measures is common in the district.

4. *Khathagaon.*—From Sundalpur I went on to Khathagaon, where some 450 paupers in a wretched condition were collected to receive cooked food. The paupers admitted to having received regular relief, but the ration, though more liberal than at Nimawar, was still too small in the case of adults. I took the opportunity to distribute clothing on behalf of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to 602 deserving paupers. The numbers had risen as the meal went on, many having to come from a considerable distance. Moreover, I had arrived before the proper meal time.

A tank work which had been completed in December at a cost of Rs. 1,200, after being open for two and a half months, was also seen.

5. *Kanod.*—At Kanod, 10 miles further north, where the headquarters of the district are situated, I found 742 paupers in a very bad condition awaiting their daily dole of khichri. I gave them all clothes from the charitable fund. On the next day the numbers had risen to 1,250.

A tank work was carried out for two months and five days during February, March, and April on the side of this township, the numbers on relief reaching to 1,200.

I followed the road embankment which started close to Sundalpur up to Kanod. The construction of this road, for which the Darbar is understood to have sanctioned Rs. 32,711, must have afforded a vast amount* of relief over a prolonged period of days.

* The Registers showed 1,600 on the 25th May.

The earthwork is almost finished, and much metal has been broken and collected, but only about half the sanctioned allotment has been spent up to date.

6. *Jail at Kanod.*—I took the opportunity to inspect the jail and dispensary at Kanod. No indoor employment is given to the prisoners who can serve sentences there up to two years. According to rules of sanitation, the building will admit of about 40 under shelter exclusive of the cooking shed.

The actual population on the date of inspection was 81 as against 150 reported three months ago. The jail is therefore overcrowded. The daily ration of nearly 14 chittacks flour and dal seemed suitable. The prisoners were well clothed and all had blankets. There were no reasonable complaints. One prisoner wanted to make an appeal, but said that he had no funds to enable him to do so. The jail is in charge of the native doctor, who for the last eight years has managed the dispensary.

Dispensary.—The number of new patients up to the 23rd July from the 1st January, 1900, was 2,263, the monthly number 241, and the daily average about 10 a day.

The medicines were neat and cleanly kept, and the instruments appeared and were said to be good. Some of them had been supplied about six months ago.

The dispensary was inspected last year by the State doctor. No major operations are performed here. Minor operations in 1899 amounted to 102. No ailment is peculiarly prevalent. At present cases of diarrhœa and dysentery are in the ascendent. The native doctor, B. Manna Lal, from Cawnpore, draws Hali Rs. 22-8 and Rs. 4 jail allowance, there is also a compounder on Rs. 6 a month, and a vaccinator on Rs. 10.

7. At Kanod I was fortunate in meeting Major Ram Prasad Dube, Judicial Secretary to the Indore Darbar, who had been deputed to distribute over Rs. 23,000 in seed and cattle to the cultivators within the district from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. As this sum is as much as has been allotted to the whole of the Bhopal Agency, we arranged to debit the cost of all clothes, which I distributed, to his allotment. For the rest of my tour Major Dube accompanied me and proved a pleasant and very sensible companion. The distribution of the fund is in good hands.

8. *Loharda. Kantaphor.*—From Kanod I visited Loharda and Kantaphor, a distance of 24 miles, and distributed clothes to over 400 paupers at a cost of Rs. 192-8. At Kantaphor a kitchen had been open from the 12th March, but it was shut for want of funds on the 5th July. This was a great mistake, for the number of attendants according to the last return was 1,265.

Ajnas.—At Ajnas there were a number of paupers but no arrangements for their relief: 221 were fed gratuitously the day I arrived, and a subscription of Rs. 150 was promised by the mahajans with a corresponding contribution from the State. A kitchen could be maintained at Ajnas till the distress is over.

Between Ajnas and Nimawar where on my return I distributed clothes to 570 paupers at a cost of Rs. 262-8 (Hali), I noticed less distress, probably because this tract of country is opposite the Hoshangabad district of the Central Provinces and the labouring classes may have wandered across to the British works.

9. *General observations.*—There are no metalled roads in the district. The soil is mostly black cotton, and in the rains transport except by elephants is impracticable. I rode over 90 miles during the tour, but saw no corpses or moribund persons. The people were everywhere collecting and eating wild indigo, which in the Central Provinces I was told produced diarrhœa. Ample rain had fallen and sowings were generally over. I was most impressed by the mortality among the cattle, too weak, I fancy, to resist the

rains, the difficulty of communication, the broad streets and cleanliness of the villages, the bad condition of the labouring classes, the poverty-stricken appearance of many of the cultivators, and the generosity of the banias in the townships named. The manner in which the latter class had been induced to assist in person and in money in the maintenance of the kitchens reflected great credit on the Naib Subah Krishna Rao Gopal Deo.

No Political Agent has been in the district for ten years, and the wholesale distribution of clothing on behalf of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund on this the next occasion of the Political Agent's visit evidently left a great impression on the people of the benefits of the English raj. A general acclamation of "Jai Angrezi raj ki jai" was altogether new to me.

In the way of famine relief much has been done from early in the cold weather, but much has been left undone, and the partial closing of relief measures with the commencement of the rains has not been justified by results.

10. The expenditure on famine relief by the State and the allotments sanctioned for the purpose are understood to be as follows :—

———	Sanctioned.	Expended.
Water-supply (tanks, &c.)	25,000	9,821
Taccavi	23,340	16,350
Road works...	32,711	16,224
Gratuitous relief	3,951	5,988
Add contributions from mahajans ...	—	6,856

Thus it will be seen that there is no sufficient reason for closing works or keeping down the number of labourers employed on the same, and yet want of money is the explanation given. This policy of restriction has caused much distress. 627 persons are reported by Punch-nama to have died of starvation, though the majority probably died a natural death, accelerated perhaps by privation. The population of the district is over 100,000, nearly 10 per cent. of whom in May, June and July probably needed relief. Nevertheless in May there were only about 2,500 on works altogether, and at present when the pinch of famine is much felt and gangs of the people are on the Central Provinces works, there is only the stone-breaking work at Sundalpur, the numbers on which are limited to 300.

Only half the allotment for roads has been spent, and there is no metal between Nanasa and Khemikhera, while more is wanted between Sundalpur and Khatagaon.

11. I strongly recommend that works be reopened to all comers in two or three places, especially at Nimawar in order to prevent emigration. The kitchens at the places mentioned which were started in March and also at Hirangaon should be regularly kept open and managed as at present with success by the banias. The reappropriation to gratuitous relief of the unspent allotment on account of water-supply would provide the necessary funds. The ration to adults is quite insufficient in most cases to maintain condition. It is very essential that not less than the cooked equivalent of 9 chittacks *raw* grain should be given to each adult, and the children less in proportion according to their size.

Unless the change is made at Nimawar and Ajnas and Kantaphor it will be impossible to prevent emigrants crossing the river Narbada in order to get the more liberal ration in the Central Provinces kitchens close by where they are freely admitted. The cultivators are much in need of the taccavi which was being distributed in a systematic manner. Had the works been freely opened gratuitous relief need not have been given so largely. The recipients, however, are no longer fit for work.

12. The Naib Subah was able to give me all information required, accounts, &c., being well kept. He appears to have done good work during his short time of office. With a free hand, he might give much relief.

The management of the Nimawar Pargana by the local Amin is less satisfactory.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

Letter from the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to the Resident at Indore, No. 8306, *dated Indore, the* 1*st August*, 1900.

I am directed to forward in original (to be returned) the accompanying letter No. 2661, dated the 28th July, 1900, from the Political Agent in Bhopal,

together with a copy of the notes recorded by him during his recent tour in the Nimawar Pargana of the Indore State.

2. I am to request that the special attention of the Darbar may be invited to the recommendations made in paragraph 11 of Mr. Lang's notes, and that they may be moved to take early action in the matter.

The Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General will, I am to add, be glad to receive a report of the action contemplated by the Darbar for report to Government of India.

Enclosure 3 in No. 29.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Jennings, R.E., Resident at Indore, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 3543 *G, dated Indore Residency, the* 1*st August*, 1900.

With reference to a letter, dated 23rd July, from Mr. Lang to the Honourable Mr. Bayley, which letter the latter gave me for necessary action on the 25th July, I have tho honour to report as follows.

2. I made an extract from the letter (the original I returned to Mr. Bayley, and the parts I cut out are marked in blue on the original) and read out most of it to Mr. Babu Mall, the State Engineer, on the morning of the 26th July.

3. The same morning I sent Mr. Babu Mall to the Minister with the following note, No. 3429 :—

" I read out most of this extract from a letter from Political Agent, Bhopal, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to Mr. Babu Mall, and I told him to go and see you to-day. I have asked him likewise to come here with you at 8 a.m. to morrow. Mr. Bayley desires immediate steps taken to remedy the evils that Mr. Lang brings to notice, viz.—(1) at least 9 chittacks to men should be given daily, not three—*vide* page 16 of Famine Code ; (2) kitchens should be opened at Kataphod and Hirangaon ; (3) regular relief works should be continued under the Public Works Department, and the numbers must not be limited, or the people will starve. I suggest the continuation of the road from Kanod to the west towards Danta Talao. Please think over the matter in consultation with the State Engineer, and let me know to-morrow, for the Agent to the Governor-General's information, what you propose." Ends.

4. Next morning, the 27th July, I saw the Minister and the State Engineer, and the result of our consultation was the issue of orders contained in Minister's letter No. 1636, dated 28th July, a copy of which I enclose. It deals with all the points brought to notice by Mr. Lang.

5. Regarding Mr. Lang's not getting returns of relief works in Nimawar, such are not sent to the Political Agents of Bhopawar or Malwa. They come to me and are submitted by me for the Agent to the Governor-General's information.

6. I have not received Mr. Lang's promised communication ; I hence have not yet written to him, but I am now sending him a copy of this letter with enclosure and asking him to kindly let me know of any further defects he may see on his tour, which I will at once strive to remedy.

Annexure.

Letter from the Minister to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, G.C.S.I., Indore, to the Resident at Indore, No. 1636, *dated the* 28*th July*, 1900.

In reply to your letter No. 3429, dated the 26th July, 1900, forwarding an extract of a letter from the Political Agent, Bhopal, to the Agent to the Governor-General, I have the honour to state that the information that the ration given is 3 chittaks was learnt with

great surprise. I concur with the Political Agent that this quantity is quite insufficient I have ordered enquiries to be made in the matter and have further ordered that ration in the kitchens should be distributed not less than that laid down in the Famine Code,* except to the sickly and emaciated dependants who cannot eat and digest that quantity.

*Page 16.

2. On the 28th instant the Council have, according to the kind advice of the Honourable Mr. Bayley and yourself, sanctioned the opening of two poor-houses, one at Kataphod and other at Harangaon, and orders have also been issued and Rs. 1,000 have been advanced for the present pending the sanction of His Highness.

3. The Council have further been pleased to accord their sanction at present to the construction of one mile extra of the road from Kanod to the west towards Dhan Talao. This is in addition to the work going on the road to east and south of Kanod towards Nimawar. The State Engineer has accordingly been ordered to commence work at once and has been instructed that he should not limit the number of workers on the work. If subsequently it is found that a large number resort to the work, further sanctions will no doubt be made on the completion of the road of one mile now sanctioned. Rupees 2,000 have been ordered to be advanced to begin with.

Enclosure 4 in No. 29.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Jennings, R.E., Resident at Indore, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 3562 G., dated Indore Residency, the 3rd August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3543 G., dated the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Minister, under date the 2nd instant, writes to me as follows :— "I am glad to inform you that orders have been issued to open a State kitchen at Ajnas in the Nimawar district, as I have heard that the want of a kitchen is felt at that place."

2. I may add that regular relief works are being re-opened near Nimawar and also at Hirangaon, 20 miles north of Nimawar, in addition to the works mentioned in the Minister's letter, which formed an enclosure to my letter No. 3543 G., dated 1st August, 1900, to your address.

Enclosure 5 in No. 29.

Letter from the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to the Resident at Indore, No. 8566, dated Indore, the 9th August, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 3543 G. and 3562 G., dated respectively the 1st and 3rd August, 1900, regarding famine relief measures in Indore territory, and in reply to inform you that the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General is glad to hear that such prompt steps were taken by you to remedy the defects brought to notice by Mr. Lang. It would probably be convenient if copies of returns of relief works were sent to Political Agents, and you might, I am to add, consult them on the point.

Enclosure 6 in No. 29.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Jennings, R.E., Resident at Indore, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 3623 G., dated Indore Residency, the 7th August, 1900.

I have the honour to return the enclosures received with your No. 8306, dated 1st August, namely, Mr. Lang's letter No. 266 I., dated 28th July 1900, and a copy of notes made by him during his recent tour in Nimawar.'

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter under reply, I beg to state that I am forwarding a copy of Mr. Lang's notes to the Darbar for

detailed report, but you will see from my letter No. 3543, dated 1st August, 1900 (which crossed your letter under reply) and from my letter No. 3562 G., dated 3rd of August, that the action recommended by Mr. Lang in paragraph 11 of his notes has already been taken, namely :—

(1) Poor-houses have been opened at Hirangaon, Kantaphod and Ajnas ;

(2) Rations are being given according to the Famine Code ;

(3) Works have been re-opened—

(1) to the west of Kanod,

(2) near Nimawar,

(3) at Hirangaon,

while the works going on between Kanod and Nimawar are being continued, *i.e.*, works under the Public Works Department are now open at four different places.

3. I beg to forward you a copy of my letter No. 3544, dated 1st August, 1900, to Mr. Lang. It was unfortunate that the real Amin Thakur Dowlat Singh, who is an excellent man, should have been away during Mr. Lang's tour. But it is very satisfactory to me to know that Mr. Lang holds a high opinion of the new Subah, Mr. Krishen Rao Gopal Deo, who was appointed under my advice. It is also gratifying to learn that "taccavi" was being distributed in a systematic manner (paragraph 11 of Mr. Lang's notes), and that the distribution of Indian Famine Charitable Relief Funds by Major Ram Pershad Dube, the newly appointed Judicial Secretary, "is in good hands" (paragraph 7 of Mr. Lang's notes). I may note that Mr. Cholmondeley strongly recommended this man to me, and he was recently appointed Judicial Secretary and selected by the Minister and myself to go to Nimawar to superintend the distribution of taccavi and charitable funds.

4. When I receive the report asked for from the Darbar, I shall have the honour to communicate its contents to you, but this letter, together with the correspondence quoted, will, I trust, enable the Agent to the Governor-General to inform the Government of India that all needful steps were taken with the least possible delay. It may, perhaps, be regretted that works were closed as an experimental measure, and in order to induce cultivators to return to their fields, but not much damage seems to have been done : while this Darbar cannot be supposed to compete with the system that appears to obtain in the Central Provinces of giving free meals without distinction to all who choose to ask for them : and I concur with Mr. Lang's views that it is a dangerously liberal policy, while it is a temptation, scarcely to be resisted, that induces our cultivators to cross the river where they can live free and well instead of attending to their fields.

No. 30.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 9653 *G., dated Indore, the* 14*th September*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 874+ G., dated the 15th August, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 4046 G., dated the 1st September, 1900, with enclosures, from the Resident at Indore, regarding famine relief measures in the Nimawar Pargana of the Indore State.

Enclosure in No. 30.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Jennings, R.E., Resident at Indore, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 4046 G., dated Indore, the 1st September, 1900.

1. Letter from Resident to Minister, Indore State, No. 3701, dated the 11th August, 1900.
2. Letter from Minister, Indore State, to Resident, No. 1899, dated the 31st August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3623 G., dated 7th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward you copies of the marginally noted correspondence.

2. The second letter is the formal report by the Minister with reference to Mr. Lang's "Notes on Famine Inspection Tour in Nimawar District of the Indore State."

Annexure I.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Jennings, R.E., Resident at Indore, to the Minister to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, No. 3701, dated Indore, the 11th August, 1900.

I have the honour to forward copy of notes (to be kindly returned) made by Mr. Lang during his recent tour in Nimawar, and, at the request of the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India, to invite your attention to the recommendations contained in paragraph 11.

In forwarding me these notes the Honourable Mr. Bayley asked me to report, for the information of the Government of India, what action the Darbar contemplated taking.

2. As you are aware, however, action was at once taken by you, and I cannot do better than forward you copies of the three maginally noted letters, which I addressed to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India and which contain a succinct account of what has been done.

1. Letter No. 3543 G., dated 1st August.
2. " " 3562 G., " 3rd "
3. " " 3623 G., " 7th "

3. All you need now do is to peruse these notes and make remarks on such paragraphs as call for comment.

Annexure II.

Letter from the Minister to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar to the Resident at Indore, No. 1899, dated Indore, the 31st August, 1900.

With reference to your letter No. 3701, dated the 11th August, 1900, I have the honour to return the copy of notes made by Mr. Lang, Political Agent, Bhopal, during his recent tour in the Nimawar district.

2. In reply to the concluding portion of paragraph 9 of the notes, regarding partial closing of relief measures at the end of June, I beg to state that it was done as an experimental measure to induce people to revert to the agricultural operations, especially as Rs. 20,000 British coin had been sent for distribution from Charitable Funds; more than Rs. 13,000 had been sent for taccavi; and an 8-anna suspension of revenue had been given. It was intended to open works again if necessary, and this having proved to be the case, orders to that effect were issued directly the Darbar was informed.

3. In reference to paragraph 10 in respect to 627 persons reported to have died of starvation, I beg to observe that deaths from cholera and other diseases have also been included in the number. I am also led to think that deaths of animals from starvation, as is sometimes the case, seem to be included in the number, and I concur with Mr. Lang that the majority of them died a natural death. I regret to say that some Amins do not make a distinction in deaths from starvation and from cholera and other causes. Mr. Damodar Martand, former Amin of Nimawar (who was dismissed for incompetence in April last), had actually reported to the Darbar Famine Department that 48 deaths occurred in one week from starvation, while on enquiry he himself admitted that the number of the deaths of cattle was also included.

4. Regarding paragraph 11 I write to say that there are four tank and road works open—

(1) at the place north and west of Kannod,

(2) & (3) at two places at north of Nimawar, and

(4) at Harangaon.

Previously there were four poor-houses in the Nimawar district—

1. Kannod.	3. Kataphod.
2. Nimawar.	4. Khategaon.

To these four poor-houses the following four have been added :—

1. Satwas.	3. Ajnas.
2. Harangaon.	4. Sandalpore.

The unspent allotment on account of water-supply is transferred for gratuitous relief, but the road work money cannot be transferred from roads, as the unexpended balance is to complete the metalling and masonry work.

Orders have been issued to the Famine Department to see that ration in the kitchens is distributed according to the quantities prescribed in the Famine Code.

5. In reply to the last portion of paragraph 12, I beg to inform you that it was not the real Amin of Nimawar whom Mr. Lang saw. The real Amin is Thakur Doulat Singh, who was absent on account of his daughter's marriage, and the man who met Mr. Lang was a mere Daftardar. Thakur Doulat Singh has since returned to his post.

In conclusion, the Darbar offer their sincere thanks to Mr. Lang for his kind suggestions, and they cannot but feel pleased to know that he considered the distribution of taccavi was being made in a systematic manner, and that the distribution of Charitable Funds was being made equally well.

No 31.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5480 *G., dated Indore, the* 19*th May,* 1900.

No. 161 C., dated the 7th May, 1900.
No. 172 C., dated the 10th May, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copies of letters cited on the margin received from the Political Agent in Malwa, giving a brief account of his tour through the Rampura and Bhanpura districts of Indore.

2. The purport of these reports has been communicated to the Indore Darbar through the Resident, who has been requested to report what action is taken on the suggestion made by the Political Agent in paragraph 6 of his letter No. 172 C., dated the 10th May.

Enclosure 1 in No. 31.

Letter from Captain W. M. Cubitt, Political Agent in Malwa, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 161 *C., dated Camp Girote, the 7th May,* 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, a brief report upon the measures for the relief of the famine-stricken people in the district of Rampura.

2. I left Neemuch for Manassa on Thursday, the 3rd instant, accompanied by Lietenant H. Stewart, my Famine Assistant for Malwa. We drove by a slightly circuitous route, and made a few enquiries at the villages by which we passed and which lay in Gwalior territory. Their general appearance indicated the severity of the famine in these parts, and there is no doubt that the famine has caused the death of several of the lowest and poorest classes. The remainder seem to be able to hold on until better times come.

3. Before we reached camp, we visited the relief works in progress, namely, the construction of a road (which will join up the Neemuch-Sawan and Manassa road with the old metalled road from Piplia) and repairs to a large bund. The total number on both these works was nearly 700. The condition of the majority was better than I had anticipated, but there was every evidence

of many having suffered. The numbers had decreased owing to the recent outbreak of cholera, but as cholera had abated the people were resorting to the works more freely. The workers seem to receive a sufficient wage ; and I was told that their appearance had improved. I was informed by the local officials that 1,600 deaths had occurred from all causes between the 1st October, 1899, and 30th April, 1900, in the Manassa Pargana, the population of which was said to be 25,000 ; the normal death rate was reported to be 50 a month. Consequently, it may be stated that at least 1,200 deaths have been due to famine. Those now on relief represent the survival of the fittest.

4. In the evening we inspected the poor-house, which is located in some buildings within the town of Manassa. The inmates numbered between 500 and 600 : the exact figures were not given to me. I believe that the inmates do receive the usual poor-house subsistence allowance and are well cared for. I was, however, told that the majority do not appreciate the place and prefer to wander about begging. Compared with the Gwalior State poor-houses, the arrangements at Manassa are primitive, but it answers its purpose. I advised the Amin to take in the next court-yard, as there was too much crowding. He said that this would be done. On the whole, I was satisfied that the relief works and the poor-house meet requirements, and that the people can obtain suitable relief if they choose to ask for it.

5. On Friday, May 4th, we marched to Kukresar and visited the relief work in progress there. The work in this case is the deepening of an old and large tank just outside the town. The work was opened on the 7th April, and was in charge of the District Officers. The number of workers was nearly 700. The wages paid were the same as on the other works in the district, viz., two annas a man, six pice a woman, and one anna for each child fit to work. This wage, if paid, allows a man to purchase nearly 14 chittacks of grain. There were few complaints of short wage, and those present appeared to be thoughtful for what is being done for them. I advised that every effort should be made to ensure each worker receiving sufficient to keep himself, and that eight hours should be taken from them. No allowance is given to dependants. I suggested the opening of a public kitchen from which the children should be fed, as this would guarantee their getting some food. The Amin told me before I left that arrangements will be made for feeding the children.

6. On Saturday, May 5th, we marched to Rampura. The relief works here are the construction of a road to Girote on which over 3,000 are employed, and which is under the management of the Public Works Department, and two tanks on which some 800 more are employed. We visited the poor-house and also some of the workers on the road. The wages paid are the same as mentioned in the preceding paragraph ; nor did I receive any complaints. I believe that they receive a fair wage, or at all events sufficient to support them. The number on the works proves that the task is not made too severe, and that they must receive a wage which is adequate. The poor-house was not a highly-organised establishment. The appearance of the people was, perhaps, worse than any I have come across. Everyone had that drawn expression which betokens starvation. They appeared too weak to have any spirit left in them. I am of opinion that it meets requirements, though I am unable to speak highly of its general management. The inmates numbered nearly 600.

7. On Sunday, May 6th, we marched to Karauda, a village on the right bank of the Chambal, but in the Rampura district. The relief works open here and in the vicinity are : the new road from Rampura to Girote and three tanks. These between them give employment to 1,275 people ; owing to cholera, which is now abated, many people had left the works. There is also a small poor-house at Karauda, the inmates of which number 93. The appearance of the people on the works near Karauda was fair and decidedly far better than those near Rampura. Their spirits were better, and altogether we were favourably impressed. The wages were the same, and I believe that the workers receive their wage regularly. The price of corn is high ; it is all imported from Neemuch. Over 900 deaths had occurred in a population of 10,000. I am satisfied that the relief works and the poor-house meet all requirements, and that all that is necessary is now being done to afford adequate relief to the poor.

8. Roughly speaking, in the Manassa, Rampura, and Karauda Tahsils of the Rampura districts, 6,500 people are on relief works, and about 1,250 are in receipt of gratuitous relief in poor-houses. The management is working well, and the people appear to be grateful. The general appearance of the people in the Rampura Tahsil was distinctly worse than that of the inhabitants of the other tahsils. It is, however, satisfactory to know that the measures for their relief are adequate, and on the whole well managed.

Enclosure 2 in No. 31.

Letter from Captain W. M. Cubitt, Political Agent in Malwa, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 172 *C., dated Camp Kotri, the* 10*th May*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, a brief account of my tour through a part of the Bhanpura district of Indore.

2. On Monday, the 7th, Mr. Stewart and I marched from Karauda to Girote, which is the temporary headquarters of the Subah of Bhanpura. At Barkhera, a village on the road between Karauda and Girote, the deepening of a large tank is giving employment to 800 people. This relief works was opened on the 1st instant. The general appearance of the people contrasted favourably with what we had seen in Rampura itself, and was better than that of the other tahsils of Rampura district. In Rampura itself the general condition was far worse than elsewhere. The Thanadar at Barkhera told me that 300 deaths had occurred between the 1st October and the 30th April, while the normal death-rate averaged some 10 or 12 a month. Cholera had killed some, but famine had been the principal cause. Cholera had practically disappeared. The rate of wage was two annas a man, six pice for a woman, and four pice for each child able to work.

3. At Girote we were met by the Subah of Bhanpura and the other District Officers. The Subah, I am glad to say, seems to interest himself actively in the welfare of the district, and it was due to his urgent representations that some relief works had been opened at Girote on the 25th February. We visited a large tank close to the town, where relief work is in progress. The number of workers on the 6th instant was 875. Their general condition was fair, the workers seemed to be content, and I believe that they are paid regularly. Besides this work, 3,000 more people are employed on the construction of the new road between Girote and Rampura. This is in charge of the Public Works Department. While riding to Girote I came across some of the workers on the road, who complained of receiving a short wage. I mentioned this to the Subah, and advised him to satisfy himself that people on the road are not defrauded of their proper wage. I ought to add that those who had complained to me had not gone to their work, though it was eight o'clock.

4. I was informed by the Subah that 3,000 deaths had occurred in the Girote Pargana between the 1st October and the 30th April. The population of the tahsil was 37,000. The normal death-rate over that period was stated to be 700, and 600 had died this year from cholera. The number of deaths due directly to starvation may, therefore, be stated to 1,700. Cholera had been prevalent, but for the last two days there have been only two or three cases. There are other works in the tahsil which I have not inspected. Judging, however, from those I have seen, I consider that the relief operations are satisfactorily conducted, and that adequate relief is given. The loss of life proves that relief operations should have been commenced sooner. The delay cannot be attributed to the local officers. There is also a poor-house at Girote. It is situated on a good site about a mile from the town. The number of inmates was about 300. They seem to receive the usual poor-house subsistence allowance, and I am of opinion that the arrangements are satisfactory. Steps are being taken to improve the sheds, and it is expected that by the time the rains set in it will afford ample shelter and cover.

5. On the 9th we marched to Bholia, a small tahsil under the charge of an Amin at Bholia. There is no relief work near Bholia itself. There is a small poor-house containing 218 inmates. The condition of the newer arrivals was distinctly bad, many being living skeletons. I doubt that the people receive a full poor-house ration, and I advised the Amin to see that they get a little more than they appeared to receive. It was estimated that between the 1st October and the 30th April 1,500 deaths had occurred in this tahsil, the population of which was stated to be 20,000. The normal death-rate would average 550. Cholera apparently had carried off a very large number. I was informed by the Amin that people of one tahsil were not allowed to go on to the relief works in another tahsil. This arrangement is, in my opinion, distinctly unsatisfactory, and has had unfortunate results in other places.

6. The conclusion at which I have arrived is that, although relief works have been opened at too late a date, they are adequate, and that on the whole they are satisfactorily managed. But the question is whether the time is not come when every step should be taken to enable the agricultural classes to resume agricultural operations. Those on the works are, I am aware, anxious to commence ploughing, but many have lost their cattle. It is estimated that 25 per cent. of plough and draft oxen have died. I should advise the Indore Darbar to give advances of grain or money to all who can possibly set to work on their fields, and to also advance money for the purchase of cattle to all who require it, and are in a position to repay gradually. Large powers of discretion should be given to the local officials for these objects. These remarks apply to the whole of Rampura and Bhanpura districts. The Subah of Bhanpura has addressed the Darbar on this subject.

No. 32.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5505 G., dated Indore, the 21st May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 5291 G., dated the 15th May, 1900,* I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Monthly Famine Statement* for April, 1900, received from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

Enclosure in No. 32.

Remarks by Captain R. B. Berkeley, Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

REWAH.

1. *Ramnagar.*—Relief works of the nature as reported last month have been continued. Condition of the people and cattle is good. Mohwa has been much below normal. Fodder and water can be obtained without much difficulty. No deaths from starvation. No emigration or immigration. Decrease in number of persons working on relief works is probably due to picking up of mohwa and the rabi harvest operations.

Sohagpur.—Rabi crops have been poor. Mohwa produce has been 5 annas in a rupee. Condition of people and cattle is fair. Fodder and water are sufficient.

Bardi.—Ordinary Zamindari and Darbar works have been continued. Mr. Adams, Famine Assistant, has finished his inspection of this tahsil, and reported that there is no distress in Bardi. Mohwa crop has been 8 annas in a rupee.

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* Not printed.

NAGODE.

2. The Darbar and Zamindari relief works in 22 places have been continued. Prices have slightly fallen. Grain is exported from Nagode to Unchehra and Parsmania. There has been practically no emigration or immigration. Out of 234 persons who went to cut crops towards Gadha, Central Provinces, 215 have returned to their homes in Dhanwahi. Arrangements have been made to get the rest back. Crops have been gathered. No death from starvation. Numbers on relief works have increased, owing to rabi crops and mohwa having been gathered. Mohwa crop less than 8 annas. Three more kitchens have been established in the vicinity of large relief works. Wells have been cleared and deepened in places where scarcity of water was threatened. Fodder is scarce, but can be obtained without much difficulty.

MAIHAR.

3. Relief works have been continued. Condition of people is indifferent. No deaths reported from starvation. Water is growing scarce, but wells are being deepened. Fodder is available. Mohwa has been only an 8-anna crop. No change in wages is reported.

SOHAWAL.

4. *Durjanpur.*—Relief works consist of bunds. Physical condition of people is good. No deaths from starvation are reported. Grain and fodder are enough.

GENERAL.

Rewah.—Scarcity of drinking water is reported from several directions, but is not general. The Darbar has sanctioned Rs. 3,000 for clearing and deepening wells wherever necessary. Private agency is also aiding. The wells in Rewah and Sutna are being deepened.

No. 33.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6442 G., dated Indore, the 14th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 5505 G., dated the 21st May, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Monthly Famine Statement* for May, 1900, received from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

Enclosure in No. 33.

Remarks by Captain R. B. Berkeley, Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

REWAH.

1. *Ramnagar.*—In addition to the ordinary relief works, a large number of Harwahas (serfs) are being employed or supported gratuitously by the landowners. The latter, now that the rains are close at hand, are desirous of keeping their "Harwahas" in the villages, so that there may be no lack of labour for agricultural operations directly the rain breaks. Physical condition of people is good, except in Beohari Ilaka, where relief operations have not been carried out according to the pre-arranged programme. No deaths from starva-

* Not printed.

tion and no cases of cholera reported. Condition of cattle indifferent. A few isolated cases of mortality from rinderpest have occurred. No change in rates of wages. Water scarce in parts, but no fear of a water famine. Lists for taccavi and grants of clothing are being made up. Rs. 13,000 have been sanctioned from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for distribution to cultivators on object IV.

Sohagpur.—No emigration. Condition of people and cattle is fair.

Berdi.—Report not received.

NAGODE.

2. Relief works have been in full operation. There has been a rise in price of grain and a corresponding rise in wages. A certain amount of mortality is reported among cattle, probably due to rinderpest. The showers during the month under report have been of great temporary benefit, and there is now no fear of a water famine. Condition of people is fair ; a few cases of cholera have occurred in Unchehra and village Piparia, Parsmania Ilaka, since the beginning of June. No death from starvation is reported. Food-stock is sufficient and is continually replenished by import from the neighbouring markets. General condition of the affected area fair. Emigration *nil.* Those who had gone to the Central Provinces to cut crops have all returned. Six persons have come from Maihar and settled in a village of Pargana Unchehra. Number of Darbar works is 39 and of private works, 35. Arrangements are being made for distribution of taccavi.

MAIHAR.

3. Works are being carried on satisfactorily. Condition of people on works is fair, and a great improvement in the condition of the people fed in kitchens is noticeable. No deaths from starvation. Three deaths from cholera reported on relief works. A few cases of immigration from non-famine districts of Rewah. Water and fodder are obtained with some difficulty. Decrease in the number of relief works is due to the fact that people from relief works are retiring to their homes to repair their houses and agricultural implements in anticipation of rain. Cholera has frightened away some. Ninety-two people out of 204 on gratuitous relief received dry ration. Arrangements are being made for distribution of taccavi.

SOHAWAL.

4. *Durjanpur.*—The relief work is construction of a bandh. Condition of people and cattle is fair. Water and fodder are available, though with some difficulty. Food-grain is imported from Sutna. The stronger labourers have withdrawn from the work to do ordinary labour, and hence the decrease in the number of persons working on relief work. Arrangements for distribution of taccavi are being made.

No. 34.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7798 G., dated Indore, the 18th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 6442 G., dated the 14th June, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, the Monthly Famine Statement* for June, 1900, received from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

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* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 34.

Remarks by Captain R. B. Berkeley, Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

REWAH.

1. *Ramnagar.*—Relief works consist of bunds and tanks. Physical condition of people is fair except Beohari, and the jungle tribes which are in poor condition. No deaths from starvation. Food-stocks insufficient, but supplemented by grain imported by rail. There is mortality among cattle owing to rinderpest. Insufficiency of water nearly everywhere except in the neighbourhood of large rivers. No emigration or immigration. No rain in June, and general condition a little deteriorated. A few cases of cholera in one or two villages. Decrease in numbers on relief works is due to people having left the works in order to do petty repairs to their houses before the rains.

Bardi.—General condition stated to be as in Ramnagar.

Sohagpur.—General condition stated to be as in Ramnagar. Emaciated wanderers are reported to have appeared in the kitchens on the borders of Mandla (Jabalpur Division, Central Provinces). A Darbar official has been sent to bring them back. It is believed that they are members of hill tribes from Sohagpur. Rewah Darbar requested to start more kitchens and relief works from wherever they may have emigrated.

NAGODE.

2. The relief works are of the nature of bunds and road-making. Seven works were completed and six works were started during the month. Two additional kitchens have been established at Unchehra and Parsmania. Condition of people on the whole is fair. A few cases of cholera in some of the villages, but none on relief works. A compounder has been detailed for cholera duty. Mortality among cattle from rinderpest. Water scarce. Price of grain has risen for want of rain in June. Grain is imported from Sutna and other neighbouring bazars. Emigration *nil*. 23 persons are reported to have come from Maihar and Rewah and settled in Dhanwahi and Uchehra. No deaths from starvation. 441 persons were employed on private relief works of the Thakurs and Lumberdars. General condition of the affected area is fair.

MAIHAR.

3. Relief works are being carried on satisfactorily. Condition of people is fair. No deaths from starvation. Fodder and water scarce. Cattle in very poor condition. Decrease in the number on relief works is due to the fact that people left the works for petty repairs to their houses and preparations for agricultural operations. Lists are being made for distribution of taccavi.

The cholera has greatly abated.

SOHAWAL.

4. Relief works have been continued. Condition of people and cattle is fair. Water and fodder are available. Food-grain is imported from Sutna.

GENERAL.

Taccavi from the Charitable Relief Fund has been distributed in Ramnagar, Nagode and Durjanpur. Arrangements are being made to distribute taccavi from the same fund in Sohagpur and Bardi. The Darbar taccavi also has been distributed in the Nagode State.

Cloth and blankets have been supplied from the Charitable Relief Fund to the indigent persons on relief works in Ramnagar, Dhanwahi, Unchehra, and Durjanpur. A few deserving persons have been relieved under object III. in Durjanpur.

Political Agent has lately visited Sahdole (Sohagpur) to enquire into cause of emigration to the kitchens in the Mandla district of Jabalpur.

(Prospects have improved in most districts owing to the rainfall in the first week of July.)

No. 35.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., C.S., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8850 *G., dated Central India Agency, Indore, the* 17*th August*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 7798 G., dated the 18th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit in original, for the information of the Government of India, the Monthly Famine Statement* for July, 1900, received from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

Enclosure in No. 35.

Remarks by Captain R. B. Berkeley, Political Agent, Baghelkhand, dated Sutna, the 15*th August*, 1900.

REWAH.

1. *Ramnagar.*—Figures have not been received. Condition of people and cattle is fair, no emigration and no deaths from starvation. Water-supply and pasturage ample since the rains in July. The standing crops and general prospects are good. Prices of grain fairly steady; relief works in the Ramnagar and Pathraula Circles have stopped owing to rain.

Sohagpur.—Relief works have continued and many more kitchens established. The relief works now consist of breaking metal for road. 109 persons who had emigrated from this ilaka were brought back from the Mandla District and admitted into the kitchens and the State relief works, many were emaciated. Some deaths are said to have occurred from starvation. Rainfall has been ample and the condition of crops is good. Grain imported by rail. Prices of grain stationary. There is little doubt that the condition of affairs in this pargana has been far from satisfactory for some weeks, and that the fact has been concealed. There has probably been much emigration to the Central Provinces and no adequate arrangements were made for the distribution of Taccavi and for maintenance when the rains commenced. Lieutenant Knollys is superintending the distribution of Taccavi and has opened several new kitchens.

Bardi.—The reduction in the number of people on relief works is owing to the commencement of agricultural operations. Condition of standing crops is good. No emigration and no deaths from starvation. Prices of grain stationary. Condition of people and cattle is good.

NAGODE.

2. Relief works consisting of roads and breaking metal for roads have continued. There are now 10 relief works and four kitchens in the State. Condition of people is good. Cholera has died out. Many weak cattle have died. Rainfall has been sufficient and the condition of crops is good. Emigration practically nil. Nine persons have left the State and 12 have come in from neighbouring States and settled in Unchehra and Dhanwahi. No deaths from starvation. 1,908 labourers on relief works, include 168 persons employed on

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* Not printed.

the private relief works of the Thakurs and the Numbardars. Out of 359 people gratuitously relieved, 47 have received cash payments and an equal number grain doles. Taccavi and loans have been given by the State and also by the Thakurs. Grain supply by rail is sufficient. Reduction in the number of persons working on relief works is due to the commencement of agricultural operations. A further reduction is expected. One death from starvation through the negligence of three village officials, all of whom have been punished.

Maihar.

3. Reduction in the number of people employed on relief works due to the commencement of agricultural operations. Such persons as desired to leave relief works were given a few days wages in advance besides clothing and allowed to go. Cholera has died out. Condition of people and cattle is fair. Pasturage is ample. Two men died of starvation. Investigation shows that they voluntarily left the relief works and returned to their home and never applied for kitchen relief.

Sohawal.

Durjanpur.—Relief works were continued during the month under report. Condition of people and cattle fair. Fodder and pasturage ample. No emigration or death from starvation. Condition of crops fair.

General.

Aid from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.—Clothing and blankets have been given to 115 persons under object I. and to four orphans under object II. Eight persons were relieved with cash payments under object III. Rs. 15,021 were distributed to 2,086 broken down agriculturists for purchase of grain, cattle and agricultural implements under object IV.

No. 36.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 9816 *G., dated Indore, the* 19*th September*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 8850 G., dated the 17th August, 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly famine statement* for August, 1900, received from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

Enclosure in No. 36.

Remarks by Captain R. B. Berkeley, Political Agent, Baghelkhand.

Rewah.

Ramnagor.—With the exception of a relief work in the Manpur illaqua employing 41 persons, all relief works have been closed, weeding affording ample employment for all able-bodied persons. The number of kitchens has

* Not printed.

also been reduced. The condition of people, crops, and cattle are good. Prices of food-grain are as follows :—

Grain.	Seers.
Wheat	9
Jawa	10½
Gram	10
Muttra	11¼

Sohagpur.—Relief works consist of bamboo cutting and stone-breaking ; 53 kitchens have been started throughout the district. Darbar officials are touring in the district distributing grain to the destitute. The Thakurs (land-holders) have realised their responsibility and have distributed seed-grain, and are supplying food to their ryots. Physical condition of people on relief works is good, and of those in kitchens is bad owing to relief works having been instituted late. Prospects of the affected area are fair. About three-quarters of the normal area is alleged to have been sown, and the condition of the crops is good. Kutki has been cut in some places. No change in rates of wages. One or two isolated cases of immigration from British territory. No actual emigration in the month under report. A large number of those who formerly emigrated have returned. Five deaths in relief kitchens have been reported. Some deaths from starvation are alleged to have occurred, but present arrangements should prevent any more deaths. Taccavi has been distributed, and arrangements are being made for taccavi for the rabi sowings. Prices of grain are as follows :—

Grain.	Seers.
Wheat	9½
Rice	10
Gram	10½
Muttra	12

Bardi.—The condition of people, crops, and cattle is good. Prices of grain are as follows :—

Grain.	Seers.
Wheat	11¼
Rice	From 8½ to 10½

NAGODE.

2. Field labour has withdrawn people from relief works. Some people were induced to leave the relief works by payment of two days' wages in advance, and others were provided with sickles for cutting grass and hoes for weeding. Wages were slightly reduced in the case of strong persons who did not require relief but still remained on relief works. This effected a reduction in the number. Sawan and kakun being now ripe, relief works have been

ordered to be closed. Kitchens will be kept open for some time at Dhanwahi and Unchehra. No emigration or immigration or deaths from starvation. Prices of food-grain have slightly fallen. Condition of crops is good. Sawan is said to have been slightly damaged by insects. Physical condition of people and cattle is good. Rinderpest and cholera have died out. Deaths from the former have been between 80 and 90 and from the latter 95 in Dhanwahi.

Maihar.

3. Everything satisfactory. The condition of crops, cattle, and people is good.

Sohawal.

4. *Durjanpur.*—Relief works and kitchens were closed on the 2nd of August. The Thakur took over four orphans who remained in the kitchens.

General.

The Political Agent visited Sahdol on the 31st, where he met several of the illaquadars of Sohagpur and urged them to continue to aid their subjects till the crops are ripe.

Six hundred and fifty-nine persons under object I., 739 under object III., and 3,112 under object IV. were relieved from the Charitable Relief Fund.

No. 37.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8220 *G., dated Indore, the* 31*st July*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India, the accompanying letter No. 2336, dated the 24th July, 1900, in which the Political Agent in Bhopawar asks permission to take a loan of one lakh of rupees from the Bank of Bengal, on the security of Government promissory notes held by the Barwani State.

2. The facts are clearly stated in Mr. Bosanquet's letter, and I would ask that if possible sanction to his proposal may be communicated to me by telegraph.

Enclosure in No. 37.

Letter from O. V. Bosanquet, Esq., Political Agent, Bhopawar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 2336, *dated Camp Dhar, the* 24*th July*, 1900.

The attached statement* exhibits the effects of the famine on the finances of the Barwani State.

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* Not printed.

2. In the past year, the receipts fell to Rs. 1,80,394, or, in round numbers, Rs. 1,45,000 below the estimate. The expenditure (Rs. 3,21,892) exceeded the budget provision by Rs. 34,000 in spite of retrenchments, and although the cost of famine relief was materially reduced by the success of the grass cutting operations conducted by the Forest Department. The latter employed 465,777 units to the close of the year, and 8,000,000 lb. of grass were cut: the produce was sold practically at cost price to cattle-owners both within and outside the State, and sales were so rapid that the operations were self-supporting almost from the first: consequently the figures were not brought in to the State accounts from month to month, and only the net result will be incorporated at the close of the famine. The only other item on the expenditure side calling for remark are the palace charges which amounted to Rs. 58,200. These include Rs. 17,939 on account of the Rana's College and other expenses at Indore for which only Rs. 10,000 had been estimated: the excess more than accounts for the difference between the budget provision and the actuals under this head.

3. In the budget estimates for the current year, the expenditure is set down at Rs. 1,07,000 in round numbers in excess of income. Though much of the land revenue uncollected during 1899–1900 has only been suspended,* the receipts of this year, even with a favourable monsoon, are not likely to exceed Rs. 1,56,420. The abkari and customs revenue share in the general depression, since the sale of liquor and trade are not expected to revive under any circumstances till October. The increase under the head of miscellaneous revenue is due to my having appropriated for State purposes Rs. 20,000 out of the assets of the Ruling Family Fund. The latter is designed to meet expenditure on "deaths and marriages in the ruling family, scarcity and other unforeseen events." On the 31st March, 1900, the balance to the credit of the fund amounted in round numbers to Rs. 35,000. The Rana and his younger brother are separately provided for under the orders which sanctioned the formation of the Ruling Family Fund. Consequently as the Chief's family consists of only four dowager Ranis, all of whom have separate maintenance allowances, and as the Rana's and his brother's marriages will not take place for many years to come, it seemed to me both safe and expedient to appropriate Rs. 20,000 from the Ruling Family Fund for the urgent needs of the State, and during the current year to suspend the usual allotment of Rs. 10,000 from State revenues to the fund and to meet any unforeseen expenditure in the Chief's family from the capital of the fund.

* The question of suspensions and remissions is to be separately reported on by the Superintendent.

On the expenditure side head 16 represents taccavi advances to cultivators. The provision of Rs. 1,32,000 on account of famine relief is considerably in excess of the actuals of 1899–1900, though the period of relief operations should be about the same in each year. Of these Rs. 1,32,000, Rs. 1,12,000 are assigned to roads† which are at present being carried out as relief works, but which would in any case have to be undertaken for the proper development of the State. The Khetia-Rajpur road will open up the rich district of Pansemal (Jalgone), besides providing through communication between the country to the north of the Narbada and Khandesh, and affording an outlet in both directions to the produce of the Barwani forests. The Khetia Pati road traverses the central districts of the State, and only requires improvement in places to be largely used. The Telwara-Tikri road is being undertaken in conjunction with the Indore and Dhar Darbars, and will be a shorter route between Barwani and Indore, and develop the rich pargana of Bamangaon. The Anjar-Mohipura road places the Narbada ferry at Mohipura in direct communication with the system of metalled roads; there is already heavy

—	Rs.
† Khetia-Moida-Rajpur road ...	80,000
Telwara-Tikri road	10,000
Pati-Khetia road...	10,000
Anjar-Mohipura road	7,000
Barwani-Julwania road... ...	5,000

traffic along this line. The Barwani-Julwania road is a metalled road connecting Barwani with the Agra-Bombay road, which has fallen into disrepair for want of supervision. The Public Works Department of Barwani has been starved in the past, and now that a capable Engineer has been obtained for the charge of it, no time should be lost in using a reasonable portion of the funds accumulated in the interim in the development of the State. The returns in the shape of increased revenue, both direct and indirect, will be immediate, as there is a quantity of agricultural land lying idle for want of communication and a considerable opening for trade: I have already received several applications to open cotton-ginning factories. The provision of Rs. 57,780 under head seven represents minor public works,* including hospital buildings at Khetia and Pati where they are much needed.

	Rs.
* New buildings	10,100
Repairs to buildings	6,500
Wells	1,000
Irrigation works	4,000
Repairs to roads and waterways	20,000
Establishment	12,680
Narbada bridges	1,500
Tools and plant	2,000
Total	57,780

4. The deficit of 1899–1900 was met from the cash balances of the State, and even the further deficit of the current year will not reduce the State's balance much below what it was at the commencement of the present minority. The State balance, however, includes Rs. 3,56,500 of securities which could only be realised at a loss in the present condition of the market. Accordingly, in anticipation of the approval of the Agent to the Governor-General, I enquired of the Bank of Bengal whether they would be prepared to lend the State Rs. 1,00,000, on terms similar to those sanctioned for the Dhar famine loan, but subject to repayment by the 1st January, 1904. The Superintendent agrees with me that the State can without difficulty pay Rs. 30,000 on the 1st January, 1902, and the 1st January, 1903, respectively, and the balance of the loan (which need not necessarily be taken up in full if the season proves favourable) on the 1st January, 1904. The Bank of Bengal agree to the proposal and are prepared to lend the money at 5 per cent. I have the honour to apply for sanction to conclude the loan.

5. The State balance as exhibited in the enclosed statement included only Rs. 13,903 in cash on the 30th June. It is desirable, therefore, to borrow Rs. 50,000 at once. I awaited the decision regarding the Dhar Famine Loan before submitting this case.

No. 38.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 3693 I.A., dated 18th August, 1900.

Your letter 8220 G., July 31st. Permission is given to Barwani State to take loan of one lakh from Bank of Bengal, but as section 37 of Presidency Banks Act forbids bank to give loans for longer period than three months, Barwani State must be prepared to repay the loan at any time after lapse of that period if called on to do so by the bank, selling its Government paper for the purpose. Even if bank does not expect to require to demand repayment, the bank's right to do so cannot be affected by any supplementary understanding.

No. 39.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Meade, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8153 G., dated Indore, the 29th July, 1901.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 3693 I.A., dated the 18th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the favourable consideration and orders of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 3354, dated the 24th July, 1901, with enclosures, from the Political Agent in Bhopawar, requesting sanction to a further loan of one lakh of rupees from the Bank of Bengal for the Barwani State.

2. As the matter is somewhat urgent, I would ask that the orders of the Government of India may be communicated to me by telegraph.

Enclosure 1 in No. 39.

Letter from Captain E. Barnes, I.S.C., Political Agent in Bhopawar, Sirdarpur, Central India, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 3354, dated Dhar, the 24 July, 1901.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, the enclosed copy of letter No. 121, dated the 11th July, 1901, received from the Superintendent Khan Bahadur N. M. Khory on the present financial condition of the Barwani State.

2. The current year's total estimated expenditure exceeds the estimated receipts of the year by about Rs. 1,00,000, as shown in the margin. The deficit, in addition to the repayment of an instalment Rs. 30,000 on account of last year's loan from the Bank of Bengal, is due to the large allotment which was essentially necessary for the Public Works Department of the State, in order to allow of the completion of important roads which were commenced during the famine of 1899, and which have been continued ever since. The allotment for original works for the current year amounts to Rs. 64,000, and the continuation of these works apart from their great economic value has afforded much-needed employment to an average of more than 3,000 persons daily during the past four months.

1901–1902.	Rs.
Estimated receipts...	3,30,720
Estimated expenditure, including Rs. 30,000 on account of first instalment in liquidation of the last year's loan of Rs. 1,00,000 from the Bank of Bengal ...	4,30,720
	1,00,000

3. It may be seen from the enclosed letter and its enclosures that the income for April, May, and June, 1901, was Rs. 28,379-3-10, which, together with the opening cash balance Rs. 14,991-7-6 on the 1st April, 1901, amounted to Rs. 43,370-11-4 on the 1st July, 1901 ; the expenditure during the last three months amounted to Rs. 69,715-9-3, thus exceeding the total receipts by Rs. 26,344-11-3, which had to be borrowed and utilised from the cash balance on account of Khasgi Funds. Furthermore, the Superintendent estimates, and I agree with him, that an additional sum of about Rs. 74,000 will be required by the State immediately to carry on the administration until the land revenue instalments begin to fall due in December, 1901. The State holds Government Securities to the extent of Rs. 3,22,500. But the market rates at present are not favourable, and the State could only realise these Securities at a loss of approximately 5 per cent.

4. I therefore request sanction to borrow up to one lakh of rupees (1,00,000) from the Bank of Bengal on the same terms as last year, *viz.*, (1) whole loan to be covered by Government Paper of a nominal value equal to the total amount of the loan *plus* 10 per cent. ; (2) interest to be payable at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

As the State receives $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from Government as interest on its Government Paper, the net interest payable by the State is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

5. I would venture to ask that, as the matter is somewhat urgent, I may be favoured with orders at an early date.

Annexure.

Letter from the Superintendent of Barwani to the Political Agent in Bhopawar, No. 121, *date the* 11*th July*, 1901.

I have the honour to request you to be so good as to borrow on security of the State Promissory Notes in your office a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for State expenses. The annexed statements will show the present financial condition. On 1st July the cash balance, including the Khasgi, was Rs. 28,939-9-9, out of which the pay and other bills for June and current expenses are being met.

It may be seen from statement A. that on the 30th June the income for April, May and June amounted to Rs. 28,379-3-10, which, together with the cash balance of Rs. 14,991-7-6 on the 1st of April, came to Rs. 43,370-11-4 on 1st July. The expenditure during the last three months, amounting to Rs. 69,715-9-3, exceeded the total receipts by Rs. 26,344-13-11, a sum that had to be borrowed and used from the Khasgi cash balance, which on 1st April amounted to Rs. 66,156-10-5. Thus the Khasgi cash balance was on 30th June reduced to Rs. 39,811-12-6, which, *minus* the Khasgi expenses for the three months, amounting to Rs. 405-5-6, left a balance of Rs. 39,406-7-0 on 1st July. In this the Khasgi cash was on 1st July Rs. 9,189-9-10, the balance being Rs. 30,216-13-2 distributed in the State Amanat, which will be debited to State account after the amount of advances made to the Public Works Department, Forest, Palace, &c., are adjusted. In short, the State has already borrowed Rs. 56,561-11-1 from the Khasgi, Rs. 26,344-13-11 excess of expenditure over income *plus* Rs. 30,216-13-2 credited in State Amanat.

From the statements of receipts and expenditure for the month of June submitted to you yesterday, it will appear that the closing balance on 30th June amounts to Rs. 3,28,155-2-1, which, when deducted from the opening balance on 1st April of Rs. 3,69,491-7-6, reduces the latter by Rs. 41,336-5-5, which represents the difference between the expenditure for the last three months (Rs. 69,715-9-3) and receipts for the same period (Rs. 28,379-3-10).

The uncertain condition of the monsoon causes much anxiety, and therefore it is considered necessary to borrow one lakh of rupees instead of Rs. 50,000, as I had at first proposed. If the rainfall is favourable to crops, even then income will improve from November next. The Government papers belonging to the State now in your office are of the aggregate value of Rs. 3,22,500, thus :—

——	Rs.
Promissory Notes of the State (after deducting Promissory Notes of 1,10,000) with the Bank of Bengal	2,44,500
Promissory Notes of Khasgi	78,000
TOTAL ...	3,22,500

STATE ACCOUNT.

A.

				Rs.	a.	p.
Cash balance on 1st April, 1901				14,991	7	6
Income.						
	Rs.	a.	p.			
For April, 1901	7,315	5	6			
„ May, „	10,282	11	5			
„ June, „	10,781	2	11			
				28,379	3	10
Total				43,370	11	4

Expenditure.

	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p
For April, 1901	9,004 2 0	
„ May, „	30 826 8 0	
„ June, „	29,884 15 3	
		69,715 9 3
Excess of expenditure over income (Borrowed from Khasgi)		26,344 13 11

A.

Cash balance on 1st April, 1901—	
Cash	14,991 7 6
Promissory Notes (Note of Rs. 1,10,000 being with the Bank of Bengal) ...	2,44,500 0 0
	2,59,491 7 6

Income.

For April, 1901	7,315 5 6	
„ May, „	10,282 11 5	
„ June, „	10,781 2 11	
		28,379 3 10
Total		2,87,870 11 4

Expenditure.

For April, 1901	9,004 2 0	
„ May, „	30,826 8 0	
„ June, „	29,884 15 3	
		69,715 9 3
Balance on 1st July, 1901		2,18,155 2 1

KHASGI ACCOUNT.

B.

	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cash balance on 1st April, 1901—		
Cash	66,156 10 5	
Promissory Notes	78,000 0 0	
Total		1,44,156 10 5

Income.

	Nil.
Total	1,44,156 10 5

Expenditure.

	Rs. a. p.	
For April, 1901	2 0 0	
„ May, „	334 5 6	
„ June, „	69 0 0	
		405 5 6
Balance on 1st July		1,43,751 4 11

	Rs. a. p.
Cash	9,189 9 10
Promissory Notes	78,000 0 0
Debited to State Amanat	56,561 11 1
	1,43,751 4 11

E. BARNES, Captain,
Political Agent in Bhopawar.

Enclosure 2 in No. 39.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 2944-I.A., dated the 3rd August, 1901.

2944 I.A., Your letter 8153-G., July 29th. Barwani may take further loan of one lakh from Bank of Bengal, on security of Government paper and subject to understanding explained in my telegtam No. 3693-I.A., August 18th, 1900.

No. 40.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Seeretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 19, G.C., dated Camp Bhander, the 7th December, 1900.

I regret to have to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying copy of a letter No. 1 C., dated the 24th November, 1900,* in which the Political Agent in Bhopawar reports that, owing to the partial failure of the monsoon,.there is likely to be a recurrence between the present time and the next rainy season of scarcity in the southern and south-western part of his Agency.

2. The States likely to be affected are Jhabua, Jobat and Ali Rajpur, and parts of Gwalior, Indore, Dhar and Barwani. The failure of crops will only be partial, and with the fall in the price of food-grains, which is likely to take place as soon as the present harvest has been gathered, distress would probably not be severe if it did not follow immediately on the failure of the current year. As things stand, however, the position is serious, and it will be necessary before long to open relief works to save the Bhil population. Captain Barnes's report, which was written after personal discussion of the whole question with me, is full, and I cannot add much to it. Fortunately, with two exceptions, the States concerned are in a position to afford the necessary relief. The Gwalior and Indore Darbars have been addressed, and Dhar, Ali Rajpur and Barwani, acting under the advice of the Political Agent, will do all that is required in their territories. It is probable that the services of a special Famine Officer will be required hereafter, but for the present the Political Agent, who is now on tour in the affected tracts, can supervise relief measures.

3. The two States, of which the Financial situation calls for serious consideration, are Jhabua and Jobat. In Jhabua the Raja, who received his powers two years ago, succeeded to a considerable heritage of debt which he had done his best to reduce when the famine of this year made his position worse than before. At the same time his action in suddenly reducing the interest payable on the State debts and the strained relations existing between himself and his Dewan seriously affected the credit of the Darbar, and in August last Mr. Bosanquet, then Political Agent, found himself obliged to recommend that an application should be made to Government for a loan, and that the Raja should be temporarily deprived of his powers, the administration of the State being entrusted to an officer acting under the direct control of the Political Agent. In view of the fact that the Raja's position was due more to misfortune than to any fault of his own, and that such mistakes as he had made were to a great extent the result of inexperience, I was unwilling to adopt this course. I asked His Highness to see me at Indore, and in the course of an interview at which Mr. Bosanquet and Capt Barnes were present, I spoke to him seriously about the position of his State and the necessity for taking immediate steps to effect an improvement. The Raja on this agreed to increase

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* Not printed.

the powers of his Dewan, to submit his budget annually to the Political Agent, and to follow the advice of the latter as to its details until such time as the debts should be liquidated. The Political Agent reported these arrangements and submitted a full account of the financial position in Jhabua in his letter No. 2961, dated the 17th October, 1900, of which I enclose a copy. The result is to show that a loan of Rs. 20,000 will be necessary to enable the State to carry on the administration during the current year and to repay the instalment of the Gwalior loan due on the 1st May. Arrangements can be made locally for this loan, but the effect of it will be to bring up the total indebtedness of the State by the 1st May to Rs. 2,15,299. When his letter was written, the Political Agent hoped that it would be possible for the Raja under the revised arrangements to meet and gradually pay off all his obligations, and that the necessity for taking the State under management would thus be obviated. Had the present harvest been a good one, it is, as shown by Captain Barnes in paragraph 7 of his letter No. 1–C. of the 24th November, probable that this hope would have been fully realised. The failure of the kharif harvest and the prospect of a very poor rabi crop have, however, altered the conditions very materially for the worse, and Captain Barnes now estimates that it will be necessary to borrow a further sum of one lakh of rupees, though it is possible that, if there is a really good mohwa crop, a smaller sum may suffice. There are only two ways in which this amount can be provided, namely a direct loan from Government or a loan raised locally under a Government guarantee, and I trust that the Government of India will sanction either the one or the other. The Political Agent, it will be seen, suggests that, as the works which it is proposed to undertake for famine relief will be valuable feeder-roads to the Godhra-Ratlam Railway, the Government of India might itself defray a portion of the cost. The adoption of this course might prove an inconvenient precedent, and I therefore hesitate to recommend it, but in view of the benefit which would accrue to the railway as to the State, I should be very glad if the Government of India could see their way to making some concession in the case by granting the loan on specially favourable terms in regard to interest. In order to secure the repayment of the loan, a larger measure of interference in the administration will be necessary. I am very unwilling that the Raja should be deprived entirely of his powers. His Highness is young and interested in the administration, and, if his powers are taken away, he will be left without employment, and by the time they are restored will probably be unfit to exercise them. I trust, therefore, that the Government of India will consent for the present to allow a system of administration to be tried by which the Raja shall appoint a Minister with the approval of the Political Agent, shall be guided by the Political Agent's advice in all important matters, including the preparation of his budget, and shall be forbidden to raise any money or to exceed the budget allotments without permission. If this arrangement, after a fair trial, fails to work satisfactorily, there will be no alternative but to take the State under management.

4. The position of the small State of Jobat is also very unsatisfactory. A full account of it is given in the enclosed copy of a letter No. 3262, dated the 15th November, 1900, from the Political Agent. This shows that the State, which has in the past year spent over Rs. 46,000, or nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ times its annual revenue, on famine relief, is absolutely penniless, and that a loan of Rs. 15,000 is required to enable it to carry on the ordinary administration. In addition to this, some Rs. 35,000 will be required for purposes of famine relief, and I recommend that a loan of Rs. 50,000 in all should be made to Jobat by the Government of India, the repayment of which, at the rate of Rs. 7,000 a year, should commence from the liquidation of the Gwalior loan, *i.e.*, three years hence. As the Rana is a minor, the State is under management, and no special administrative arrangements are required.

5. The provision of funds in both Jhabua and Jobat is an urgent matter, and I trust that I may be favoured with an early answer to this letter.

No. 41.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Camp, No. 5455–I.A., dated the 29th December, 1900.

Your letter 19–G.C., December 7th. Famine loans of Rs. 50,000 for Jhabua and Rs. 30,000 for Jobat are sanctioned for current financial year. Provision will be made for next financial year for Rs. 50,000 more for Jhabua. and Rs. 20,000 more for Jobat, if required. But please impress on the Political Agent the importance of strict economy and the rigid application of famine tests in the expenditure of the money given. The Government of India trust that, with care and strict supervision, it may not be necessary to ask for the balance of the loans next year. Orders as to terms of repayment will follow.

No. 42.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 231-*I.A., dated Fort William, the* 16*th January,* 1901.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with the telegram marked on the margin, which sanctioned the grant of famine loans for the Jhabua and Jobat States.

From the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 5455-I.A., dated the 29th December, 1900.

2. I am to request that you will submit, in due course, your recommendations as to the periods within which the loans should be made repayable. The Government of India, as at present advised, do not see sufficient reason to concede to the Jhabua State easier terms, in regard to interest, than have been allowed in the case of neighbouring States. The loans granted to both States will, therefore, in the absence of further orders, bear interest at 4 per cent. a year. Your tentative proposals in regard to the future administration of the Jhabua State are approved generally. It will be convenient if you can furnish the Government of India with information, in a form somewhat similar to that contained in the letter marginally noted, as to the financial position of the State for the past three years.

From the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 70-C., dated the 1st December, 1900 (Bijawar finances).

No. 43.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1868-*G., dated Camp Palasi, the* 2*nd March,* 1901.

In acknowledging the receipt of your telegram No. 5455–I.A., dated the 29th December, 1900, and of Captain Daly's letter No. 231-I.A., dated the 16th January, 1901, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the letters cited on the margin, which have passed between my office and the Political Agent in Bhopawar, regarding the application of the loans sanctioned by Government for purposes of famine relief in the Jhabua and Jobat States.

To the Political Agent No. 187-C., dated 17th January, 1901.

From the Political Agent, No. 530, dated the 5th February, 1901.

2. I have delayed addressing you on this subject until now, as I wished before doing so to satisfy myself by personal inspection of the conditions obtaining among the Bhil population of the States in question. This I have now done, and I regret to find that the position is even worse than I had anticipated. The population of Jhabua at the Census of 1891 was 119,787 and that of Jobat 15,047. The preliminary returns for the present Census show 77,627 and 8,500 respectively. There is every reason to believe that, up to the failure of the rains in 1899, the population had gone on increasing at its normal rate. The loss is thus greater than it appears from the figures. A small portion of it may be due to emigration to British territory; but in view of the state of things prevailing in Gujarat, no large deduction can be made on this account, and there can be no doubt that almost the whole decrease has been due to the terrible mortality caused by an abnormally unhealthy season among a people much reduced by famine. In the opinion alike of the late and present Political Agents, the Famine Assistants, and the Native officials best qualified to judge, comparatively few actually died from hunger, but the survivors were not strong enough to resist the cholera and fever which came during and after the rains. Evidences of the decrease of population are visible on all sides in the shape of uncultivated ground and deserted houses. Unfortunately, both the autumn and winter rains were scanty and unseasonable, and consequently, even where fields were sown almost entirely with seed, and bullocks provided by the Darbars, the seeds failed to germinate. A certain quantity of maize and other crops were raised, and on these and the seeds of the *sawa* and other grasses, which have happily been abundant, the people have lived till now. In ordinary years the Bhils eke out their resources for three or four weeks with grass seeds, but this year they have lived on them almost entirely since the beginning of November, and will be able to procure them for another month or so. About the end of March the *mohwa* crop, if it turns out well, will also help them on for a time. Neither of these foods are very nourishing and neither will last long, and, though, for the moment signs of emaciation are seldom apparent, the people will soon have nothing to eat till the autumn crops are reaped, and they are not in a state of health to enable them to resist the ordinary unhealthiness of the rainy season and the subsequent two months. For the most part their stocks are entirely exhausted. No better proof of the accuracy of this description could be given than is afforded by the fact that, on the relief work recently started near Jobat, some 1,800 people are at present at work. Last year the Bhils were only induced with difficulty to come to the works. This year they have come freely of their own accord. I asked many of them why they had come and what stock they had at home, and the answer was in every case the same—"If I had anything in my house should I come to work?" To anyone who knows the Bhil habit of working at his fields for the shortest time possible and of idling for the rest of the year, the answer is, I think, conclusive.

3. With grain at its present price of some 16 seers to the rupee, and with few signs of actual starvation among the people, ordinary famine conditions cannot be said to exist, but I submit that relief measures are none the less urgently necessary on this account. To people who have neither the money nor the means of raising it the price of food matters little, and in view of the heavy mortality of last year, and of the fact that the Bhils' power of resistance to privation and sickness is absolutely at an end, it is of the utmost importance to keep them above starvation point, and to place them in a position in which they can take advantage of more favourable agricultural conditions. The attainment of this object is, I venture with the utmost deference to submit, altogether incompatible with the rigid enforcement of famine tests. In this connection I would ask the careful attention of the Government of India to the remarks made by the Political Agent. Any attempt to enforce famine tests strictly would, I agree with Captain Barnes in thinking, lead to the immediate desertion of the works and to very heavy mortality. In Jhabua, which is a fairly large State, with some organisation, it will, I hope, be possible to have works under the supervision of the State officials and to fix a wage which will limit relief to those who are actually in real want, but it will not be possible to enforce a task which would be reasonable in more civilised parts of

the country, and it will probably be necessary, when the works are closed and people return to their fields, to give them small sums in money to enable them to tide over the time till their crops ripen. Should the arrangements prove unsatisfactory, a system similar to that which I am about to describe as in force in Jobat will be adopted. In Jobat which, though a separate State, has an area of only 127 square miles and a revenue in normal years of Rs. 34,000 (this year it is only Rs. 18,000), it is impossible with the necessarily very limited administrative staff adequately to supervise famine relief conducted on the lines of the Famine Code, and by far the most effective arrangement is that which the Political Agent had previously to the receipt of my letter authorised the Darbar to adopt, namely, to carry on the work by contract. I have carefully inspected the work which appears to me to be in all respects satisfactory. The contractor, a very respectable Parsi gentleman, who did much good work on behalf of Dhar and other Darbars last year, is obliged to provide labour for all who apply for it, except those who are physically unfit. He pays the male diggers at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 annas according to the work done, and the female diggers at $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas. Nearly all these people bring their women or children, or both with them, and, as these earn two cowris for every basket carried, it is strongly to the interest of the diggers to enable them to carry as many baskets as possible. In practice, this affords a sufficient inducement to perform a full task. The workers save a little out of their earnings on which they will be able to live when the works are closed, and in some cases to pay part of the price of the bullocks or seed which will be given to them as *taccavi*. The system is cheap and works well, so much so that some of the other States, such as Ali Rajpur, have adopted it spontaneously. For persons who are unable to work, the contractor looks after a poorhouse which is provided at the cost of the State. At present, only one application has been made for admission, but the arrangement worked well last year, and when weakly persons appear this year there will be full provision for them. I can assure the Government of India that every endeavour is being made to prevent money from being wasted, and I trust that, in view of the altogether peculiar circumstances of the case, the Government of India will not insist on the application of ordinary famine tests. If this is done, I am assured by the Political Agent, and by the Superintendents of Jobat and Ali Rajpur, who are men who have lived and worked among the Bhils for over 20 years, the result will be the almost entire depopulation of the affected tract followed of necessity by the impoverishment for many years to come of the Darbars.

4. I am glad to say that the Political Agent has, in the light of further experience, been able to reduce his estimates of the amounts which are likely to be required as loans by the States. These he now gives as Rs. 65,000 for Jhabua and Rs. 45,000 for Jobat thus :—

JHABUA.

——	Rs.
Relief works and gratuitous relief ...	50,000
Taccavi advances	15,000
Total	65,000

JOBAT.

——	Rs.
Relief works and gratuitous relief ...	25,000
To meet deficit in the current year's budget	15,000
Taccavi	5,000
Total	45,000

In the case of both States advances on account of *taccavi* have been included, and in the case of Jobat the sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided to meet the current year's deficit. This has been done, as in Jhabua the limit of the State's power to borrow in the open market has been reached, and although Jobat, being under superintendence, could borrow locally under what would practically amount to a guarantee from the Political Agent, still such a loan would not be obtainable at a less rate of interest than 9 per cent., which would involve an additional and almost insupportable burden on its finances.

5. The report called for in paragraph 2 of Captain Daly's letter, No. 231-I.A., dated the 16th January, 1901, will be submitted with as little delay as possible.

Enclosure 1 in No. 43.

Letter from the Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Political Agent in Bhopawar, No. 187-C., dated the 17th January, 1901.

With reference to your letters cited on the margin, I am directed to inform you that the Government of India have been pleased to sanction famine loans of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 30,000 for the Jhabua and Jobat States, respectively, for the current financial year, and will make provision for further loans of Rs. 50,000 for Jhabua and Rs. 20,000 for Jobat in the year 1901-1902, if required.

No. 2,961, dated the 17th October, 1900.
No. 1-C., dated the 24th November, 1900.
No. 3,494, dated the 14th December, 1900.

In communicating sanction to these loans, the Government of India have desired the Agent to the Governor-General to impress on you the importance of strict economy and the rigid application of famine tests in the expenditure of the money lent. The Government of India trust that, with care and strict supervision, it may not be necessary to ask for the balance of the loans next year.

2. I am to ask your very careful attention to the order of the Government of India in respect of the loans, and to request that you will be so good as to report the steps which you propose to take to ensure economical administration of famine relief. In view of the peculiarities of the Bhil population of the affected tract, the enforcement of strict famine tests will necessarily be a matter of difficulty, but as inasmuch as a large portion of the people came on relief works last year, and are, therefore, to a great extent accustomed to famine conditions, the Agent to the Governor-General trusts that the difficulty may not prove insuperable.

3. Your proposal to allow the Raja of Jhabua to raise a loan of Rs. 50,000, instead of Rs. 20,000 originally proposed, to meet the expenses of administration for the current year is sanctioned, though it is regretted that the position should be worse than you supposed would be the case when your letter of the 24th November was written. It will not, however, be possible, as suggested by you, to employ any portion of the money lent by Government to discharge part of the loan raised by the Darbar, as it is evident from the terms in which sanction has been conveyed that the Government loan is intended only to supplement the resources of the State to the extent necessary to save life.

Enclosure 2 in No. 43.

Letter from the Political Agent in Bhopawar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 530, dated the 5th February, 1901.

I have the honour to reply to Mr. Gough's letter, No. 187-C., dated the 17th January, 1901, regarding the sanction which the Government of India has been pleased to accord to the grant of famine loans for the States of Jhabua and

Jobat, in connection with which I am asked to report the steps I propose to take to ensure strict economy in the expenditure of this money and in the administration of famine relief.

2. In the first place I would assure the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General that no effort will be wanting on my part to enforce the greatest economy possible in the expenditure of the money lent, and I am certain that the Jhabua Darbar and the Superintendent, Jobat, will use every effort to second me in this direction. Both these States are so much in debt that it is obviously the object of all concerned to avoid, as much as may be possible, any increase of the burden. With the greatest deference, however, I submit that the condition of the people in both Jhabua and Jobat is such as to render the employment of rigid famine tests inexpedient. My reasons are the following.

In the first place the population is purely Bhil, and it is under any circumstances a difficulty to induce this class of people to continue on the works. I believe that the rigid imposition of tests would result in their remaining in the jungle, and in their endeavouring to eke out an existence on forest produce. This was what happened in certain cases last year, and was, I consider, one of the causes of very high mortality, and also of the large amount of dakaitis. Furthermore, works carried on under these conditions in these small States entail the enlistment from outside of a considerable supervising establishment, which but too often opens a way to wasteful expenditure and fraud. From the experience obtained during the past famine in this Agency it was found that the contract system was both economical and effective in affording relief, and it is for that reason that I advocated the employment of this system in my letter, No. 1-C., dated the 24th November, 1900.

3. In December last, I toured through the States of Jhabua, Jobat, and Ali Rajpur, and convinced myself of the need there would be of affording employment to the people during the coming months. But, apart from a personal inspection of the area, a consideration of the conditions which have existed during the past 18 months would, I submit, suffice to prove the need of giving work to the population, and as, from the orders of the Government of India, I fear that my previous reports may not have been sufficiently explicit, I venture to recapitulate these conditions. In 1899 the rains failed almost completely, so that in addition to the grain famine which ensued, the Bhils were deprived of the forest products, from which, in ordinary times, a considerable addition to their food-stocks is obtained. The suffering was thus very severe, and the result is now evident in the reduced population. Unfortunately, the monsoon of 1900 was not satisfactory. The rainfall was deficient in quantity, and ceased too soon. Owing to the past famine, and in spite of every effort made, only a six-anna kharif crop was obtained, and this was sown, for the most part, by the better classes. A very large proportion of the Bhils, who ordinarily sow a small area for their personal wants, did not in past year sow at all, or else sowed so late that their crops never ripened. They have thus been almost entirely dependent on forest produce supplemented by small earnings derived from the sale of grass and wood, and little employment obtainable in reaping the crops of their neighbours (it must be remembered that the rabi crop in this area is practically non-existent). The previous year having thus reduced the population to poverty, and the present year having afforded no sufficient means for recuperation, it appears evident that the people must be on the very margin of severe distress. It is true that the physical condition of the people is still good, so far as a number of persons nourished on grass-seed can be called good, but they are living absolutely from hand to mouth and have nothing in reserve. If in offering them employment rigid tests are employed, a large percentage of the people will, I believe, not come near the works. Very severe distress will become apparent, dakaiti will increase, and for the same reasons as last year the mortality will be very serious. A consideration of the figures obtained from the preliminary enumerations which have just been completed in Jobat will, I think, further strengthen my recommendations. The census of 1891 show a population of 15,000, and the preliminary returns which have just been completed show the present population to be 8,500. It is

evident that every effort must be made to prevent any repetition of such a mortality, and this can only be done by generous treatment at the present time.

4. It was the knowledge of the above-mentioned conditions which caused me (as already reported) to arrange for the opening of work by contract on the Jobat-Ambua road by the 15th January. This work was actually opened on the 19th, prior to the receipt of the orders contained in Mr. Gough's letter. It may be remarked that on the 15th many people had already collected and were awaiting the arrival of the contractor, and I now learn from the Superintendent of Jobat, who has just joined me in camp, that on the 29th there were 960 people working, and that he expects that numbers will rise to close on 2,000. I enclose, for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, a copy of the terms under which the contract has been made. The wages paid are as follows :—

——	Maximum.
	Annas.
Male diggers	1½ to 2
Women diggers	1 to 1½

Those working with the baskets receive 2 cowries for every basket, so that to earn 1 anna 144 baskets have to be carried. I had sent for the Superintendent, who has many years' experience of the Bhils, to discuss with him the possibility of introducing tests or of reducing the wages now paid. He submits that it is not possible to lower the rate of wages given above. His view is that the condition of this small State is absolutely critical, and that employment must be given on liberal terms, otherwise, he urges, the Bhils will not come on the work, preferring to starve in their own houses than to work on what they consider insufficient pay. Unless they are nursed during the coming months, there will be a repetition of last year's mortality, with the result that the State will become practically a desert. I quote the Superintendent's opinion, as he is a man who has spent his whole service among the Bhils, and moreover I feel it my duty to place the matter before the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General as clearly as possible, so that the situation may be fully understood, and there may be no doubt as to the issues which are at stake. The contract system which has been employed is distinctly economical to the State, the only extra establishment entailed being a sub-overseer on Rs. 30. Moreover in these small States, where officials are very poorly paid, there is less danger of peculation under this system than under the Famine Code, where the money passes through so many hands before reaching the labourer himself. A further guarantee of economy, or rather the prevention of waste, lies in the fact that all money will be paid to the contractor through my office direct after his bills have been passed by competent engineering authority. I trust, therefore, that, after a consideration of the remarks which, with all deference, I have ventured to submit in this and the previous paragraph, my action, in arranging for relief in Jobat under the contract system without subjecting workers to any rigid test, may be approved, and the extension of this system to Jhabua, as it may be found desirable, may be sanctioned.

I would again assure the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General that in every way possible economy will be practised, but I beg, in the interests of the States concerned, that the very special conditions existing may be recognised, and that the orders regarding the application of the Famine Code tests may be reconsidered.

5 Up to the present no work has been opened in the Jhabua State, but in my opinion it will be necessary to do so very shortly. I have been awaiting information as to the action which the Public Works Department will take regarding the recommencement of work on the Jhabua-Meghnagar road. It

will be remembered that this road was commenced last year with money supplied by local funds, and that the share of the Jhabua Darbar in the total cost was estimated at Rs. 8,000, excluding the cost of maintenance ; but apart from this other works will be necessary, and concerning them I am in correspondence with the Dewan. Amongst other proposals is one for improving the existing tract between Jhabua and Ranapur and Thandla-Bajrangarh, and a surveyor has been deputed by the Public Works Department to survey the former line. I propose the construction of a fourth-class road between these places, as the Darbar is not in position to provide for the maintenance charges of metalled roads. For the supervision of these works, the employment by the Darbar of a subordinate officer with special engineering qualifications will, I think, be necessary.

Vide Central India Agency letter No. 5981, dated the 2nd June, 1900.

6. In conclusion I note the orders of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General contained in paragraph 3 of Mr. Gough's letter that no part of the money lent is to be employed by the Jhabua State to discharge part of any loan raised by the Darbar. I regret for the sake of the Darbar that this should be the case, but I trust that the ruling does not apply to Jobat, for whom I especially applied for a loan of Rs. 15,000 to meet the deficit in the current year's budget, which is solely due to the recent famine. If the ruling above mentioned is held to apply to Jobat, I would beg most earnestly for its reconsideration, and would ask that reference may be made to my letter No. 3262, dated the 15th November, 1900, in which the financial condition of the State is fully shown. I also trust that the grant of "taccavi" advances to cultivators for the purchase of bullocks and seed, both in the cases of Jhabua and Jobat, may be permitted from these loans. This subject is a general cause of preoccupation throughout the Agency, but especially so in the case of Jobat and Jhabua, who have no reserve funds to fall back on ; and who, if they hope to recover some of the ground lost, must be ready to employ a liberal policy in this direction.

Vide my letter No. (C), dated the 24th November, 1900.

7. Finally I would beg that I may be informed of the conditions as to the interest and terms of repayment on which the loans have been granted.

No. 44.

Letter from J. B. Wood, Esq., the Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 1427 *I.-A., dated Simla, the* 12*th April*, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1868 G., dated the 2nd March, 1901, regarding famine administration in the Jhabua and Jobat States.

2. The Government of India recognise that in dealing with Bhils special measures are required, and no departure from this policy was intended in the instructions to which you refer. In insisting on the rigid application of famine tests, the Government of India contemplated that appropriate tests would be devised, but desired that these should be carefully enforced. Accordingly the arrangements which you describe are suitable, provided that, as you state, they "limit relief to those really in want."

3. The loans of Rs. 15,000 to Jhabua and of Rs. 15,000 to Jobat during the current official year are sanctioned, as proposed by you, in lieu of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 20,000, respectively, as previously estimated.

No. 45.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3663 *G., dated Indore, the* 15*th April,* 1901.

In continuation of paragraph 6 of my letter No. 1868 G., dated the 2nd March, 1901, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 1243, dated the 24th March, 1901, in which the Political Agent in Bhopawar reports on the financial position of the States of Jhabua and Jobat in connection with the repayment of the loans recently sanctioned by Government.

2. It will be seen that both States are for the time being in an extremely impoverished condition, and I regret that, in the circumstances described by Captain Barnes, I am unable at present to make any definite suggestion as to the date from which the repayment of the loans should commence.

3. In order to secure careful financial supervision, the Political Agent will be instructed to submit the budget estimates of both States to me annually for the next few years, and, with the permission of the Government of India, I will report again on the subject a year hence. In the meantime the Political Agent will be asked to investigate carefully the miscellaneous debts against the Jhabua Darbar, and to see what steps can be taken to substitute a proper system of land revenue collections for that described in paragraph 6 of his letter.

Enclosure in No. 45.

Letter from Captain E. Barnes, Political Agent in Bhopawar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 1243, *dated Mhow, the* 24*th March,* 1901.

With reference to correspondence ending with Captain Stratton's endorsement No. 815, dated the 5th February, 1901, I have the honour to submit the following report on the financial position of the States of Jhabua and Jobat in connection with the loans recently sanctioned by Government.

2. First as regards Jhabua. The following statement which I have received from the Jhabua Darbar shows the actual receipts and expenditure for the years 1898–1899 and 1899–1900, while for the current year (1900–1901) the figures shown are actuals for 10 months and estimates for two months :—

JHABUA.

——	Actuals, 1898–1899.	Actuals, 1899–1900.	Actuals, 10 months, and estimates, 2 months, 1900–1901.
	[Figures in thousands.]		
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
Opening Balance	2	3	50*

* *Note.*—The opening balance of current year has been reduced by Rs. 7,000, as this item largely consists of bonds, Rs. 7,000 worth of which on investigation have been found to be valueless.

——	Actuals, 1898–1899.	Actuals, 1899–1900.	Actuals, 10 months and estimates, 2 months, 1900–1901.
	[Figures in thousands.]		
Receipts—	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
(*a*) Ordinary—			
I.—Land Revenue...	77	1	44
II.—Customs	36	21	15
III.—Abkari	29	30	25
IV.—Law and Justice	6	7	4
V.—Public Works Department ...	—	—	—
VI.—Interest...	1	—	—
VII.—Tribute...	5	5	5
VIII.—Miscellaneous	16	8	8
Total Ordinary	170	72	101
(*b*) Extraordinary—			
I.—Miscellaneous	—	1	—
II.—Advances and deposits ...	—	117	62
Grand Total	172	193	213
Expenditure—			
(*a*) Ordinary—			
I.—Allowances	29	32	34
II.—State Troops	24	23	22
III.—Karkhanas	—	—	—
IV. & V.—Public Works Department ...	3	4	1
VI.—Law and Justice	15	13	13
VII.—Land Revenue...	12	9	10
VIII.—Hospital, charities, pensions...	17	15	14
IX.—Miscellaneous	27	22	18
Total Ordinary	127	118	112
Extraordinary—			
Interest	—	—	10
Famine and Taccavi	—	11	70*
Other debts	3	1	3
Miscellaneous	39	6	17
Total Extraordinary ...	42	18	100
Grand Total	169	136	212
Closing balance	3	57	*Nil.*

* Of this sum Rs. 28,000 is recoverable from the Umraos. Arrangements have been already made to raise Rs. 15,000 locally to pay instalment of Gwalior loan due in May.

3. The effects of the recent famine on the revenue of the State are evident and require but little comment. From Rs. 77,000 (which may be taken as the normal) in 1898–99, the land revenue collections have fallen in the current year to Rs. 44,000. Last year practically no collections were possible and the whole revenue was suspended, one quarter being remitted by the Darbar. The customs revenue has fallen in even a greater proportion owing to lack of grain and other produce for export, while abkari also shows a notable decrease. The recent Census shows a decrease of about 33 % of the population as compared with the Census of 1891, and, although this large difference may be, in fact, due to the temporary absence of considerable numbers of the Bhil population, who at this time of year habitually migrate to Malwa for the wheat harvest, still there is little doubt that the actual loss, owing to the hardships of the last two years, is very great and must, for some time to come, materially affect the land revenue of the State.

As regards the expenditure shown in the above statement, an increase is noticeable under the heading "Allowance." This is due to marriages contracted by the Raja. The Raja's personal allowance was fixed at Rs. 24,000 when he was granted powers. Other heads show a decrease and I think that the total annual expenditure may be further reduced to Rs. 1,05,000.

4. The State debts* are shown to amount to Rs. 2,16,563. This is exclusive of the Rs. 50,000 now borrowed from the Government of India. Of this sum one lakh is owing to the Gwalior Darbar on account of the loan taken last year and the remainder to local mahajans. The interest due on these debts amounts in round numbers to Rs. 10,000.

* *Vide* enclosed schedule.

5. I have not received from the Darbar their estimates for the coming year (1901–1902). With careful management the ordinary receipts may reach Rs. 1,15,000, in addition there will be "Extraordinary" receipts on account of ¼ of the land revenue outstanding from last year, probably about Rs. 10,000, and a further item of Rs. 28,000 advanced to the Umraos for relief works, the greater part of which will be recoverable during the next 12 months. The total receipts of the State for the coming year may thus, I think, be estimated at Rs. 1,40,000.

As already noted, the ordinary expenditure can, in my opinion, if strict economy is practised, be reduced from the figure given in the statement for the current year to approximately Rs. 1,05,000. Interest payable, on present debts and on the loan now taken from Government during the coming year, will amount approximately to Rs. 15,000; thus there remains an estimated balance of Rs. 20,000 to meet the instalment due on the Gwalior loan.

6. The recent famine has, however, so reduced the population, and the bad season which has immediately followed it has so weakened the resources even of the better classes among the cultivators, that until another, and it may be hoped a normal, year has passed, it is impossible, in my opinion, at the present time to gauge with any accuracy what will be the ultimate effect of these disastrous seasons on the revenue of the Jhabua State. The matter is further complicated by the very system under which the revenue is collected. Payments on account of land revenue are made entirely by the village banias not in cash but in bonds (*likhtangs*). Payments of the abkari contract are also made by the same means. Thus in bad years an element of uncertainty is introduced, of which an instance occurs in the statements of accounts given above, where the closing balance for 1899–1900 is shown as Rs. 57,000 and the opening balance of 1900–1901 as Rs. 50,000, a difference of Rs. 7,000 due to unrealisable bonds. Given good crops and a careful administration, the State may rapidly recover, and after two years or so a normal balance of Rs. 30,000 may be obtainable. Much depends on the capacity of the Darbar at the present time to provide food and seed-grain in sufficient quantity to ensure, so far as, humanly speaking, is possible, a full harvest. I have already touched on this matter in former communications, and

I trust that some part of the money now borrowed may be utilised for this purpose. As showing the Darbar's views on the subject, I enclose for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, a copy of the Dewan's letter with which he forwarded the statement of accounts. It shows the helplessness of their position, and I have accordingly been compelled to take the matter somewhat in my own hands, and from personal knowledge have submitted for consideration my estimates for the coming year. Any estimate for a period beyond this must, owing to the abnormal condition now existing, be unreliable, and I, therefore, recommend for the consideration of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, that in the case of Jhabua the issue of definite orders as to the repayment of the Government loan now taken may be withheld until, say, March, 1902, when it is to be hoped that normal conditions will be re-established and figures will be available on which definite and reliable estimates can be based.

7. I now turn to the case of Jobat, which, financially speaking, has suffered comparatively more severely than Jhabua. The following statement gives the actuals for the years 1898–99 and 1899–1900, and the actuals for 10 months and estimates for 2 months for the current year :—

JOBAT.

——	Actuals, 1898–99.	Actuals, 1899–1900.	Actuals, 10 months, and estimates, 2 months, 1900–1901.
	[Figures in thousands.]		
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
Opening balance	38	22	10
Receipts—			
(*a*) Ordinary—			
I.—Land Revenue	19	1	8
II.—Custom and Sayer	7	2	2
III.—Abkari	8	4	3
IV.—Law and Justice	1	—	—
V.—Public Works Department ...			
VI.—Interest	--	—	—
VII.—Tribute			
VIII.—Miscellaneous	1	1	1
Total Ordinary	36	7	14
Gwalior loan	—	20	5
Extraordinary—			
Cess received on purchase of elephant	2	—	—
Grand Total	76	49	29

	Actuals, 1898-99.	Actuals, 1899-1900.	Actuals, 10 months and estimates, 2 months, 1900-1901.
	[Figures in thousands.]		
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
Expenditure—			
(*a*) Ordinary—			
I.—Allowances (Khasgi)	7	6	10*
II.—State Troops	*Nil.*	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
III.—Karkhanas			
IV & V.—Public Works Department ...	4	4	2
VI.—Law and Justice	3	4	4
VII.—Land Revenue	6	6	6
VIII.—Hospitals, charities, pensions	1	2	1
IX.—Education	—	—	—
X.—Miscellaneous	2	1	1
Total Ordinary	23	25	24
(*b*) Extraordinary—			
Interest—			
Famine and Taccavi	—	14	18
Liquidation of late Rana's debts ...	29	—	—
Expenses connected with death of late and succession of present Chief	2	—	—
Total Extraordinary ...	31	14	18
Grand Total	54	39	42
Closing balance	22	10	Deficit 13

* Increase due to college expenses of young Rana at Indore.

The year 1898-99 opened with a balance of Rs. 38,000. The year was a particularly prosperous one owing to a bountiful "mohwa" crop, and the revenue was Rs. 2,000 above the normal. Some Rs. 30,000 of debts and other unadjusted charges owing from the late Rana's time were paid off, and the year closed with a balance of Rs. 22,000 in the treasury. Owing to the entire failure of crops in 1899-1900, no land revenue was collected, and the total income fell to Rs. 7,000. With the loan of Rs. 20,000 borrowed from Gwalior, the administration was carried on and the year closed with a balance of Rs. 10,000. In the current year, however, there has been but little recovery. Owing to the deficient rainfall, the land revenue collected has been only Rs. 8,000 instead of a normal of Rs. 18,000. The receipts from customs and

abkari have also been very low. Thus the total revenue this year will not exceed Rs. 14,000 as against a normal of Rs. 34,000. An additional Rs. 5,000 was borrowed from Gwalior, making a total debt of Rs. 25,000, and the year closes with a deficit of Rs. 13,000.

To meet this I have already applied for sanction to employ part of the sum now sanctioned as a famine loan.

8. For the coming year, the Superintendent estimates that given a normal season the total receipts will, including the value of the State elephant which, under present circumstances, must be sold, amount to Rs. 27,000. The normal expenditure may be put at Rs. 24,000 per annum. During the coming year this will be reduced to Rs. 22,000 by effecting economies in the salaries of the State officials, commencing with the Superintendent downwards. By this means a closing balance of Rs. 5,000 is estimated for the year 1901–1902. Rs. 2,500 will be required to meet the interest on the Gwalior loan and on the loan now taken from Government. The remainder should be carried forward to the year 1902–1903, from which year I consider it will be possible for the State to commence repayment of the Gwalior loan by instalments of at least Rs. 5,000 per annum. I am of opinion that Jobat, being a small and compact area, will, under the present good management of the Superintendent, recover its prosperity more rapidly than in the case of Jhabua. It may be hoped that after two or three years with normal seasons the budget will again show a normal balance of Rs. 10,000. In the meantime, however, I would recommend that the Gwalior loan should be first liquidated. This should be possible by May, 1908, at the latest. By that time the State will, I confidently believe, be able to commence repayment of the loan now taken from the Government of India by instalments of Rs. 10,000 per annum.

9. I fear that the recommendations contained in the report may he held to be vague and possibly unsatisfactory, but with the utmost deference I submit that conditions at the present time in both Jhabua and Jobat are so abnormal as to render any more definite proposals valueless.

Annexure.

Letter from the Dewan of Jhabua to the Political Agent in Bhopawar, No. 67, dated the 27th February, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 5 (C), dated the 5th February, 1901, regarding the loan of Rs. 50,000 which the Government of India have been pleased to sanction for employment on famine relief in the State, and thereby calling for a full report on the finances of the State, I have the honour to forward to you a statement, showing the receipts and expenditure for the years 1897–98, 1898–99, 1899–1900 and 1900–1901, together with a full statement in tabular form of the debts now outstanding against the State, distinguishing between debts due from the time of the late Chief, and those incurred recently. The total amount of debt now outstanding against the State is Rs. 2,16,563, out of which Gwalior loan alone amounts to Rs. 1,00,000, which is to be repaid from the next financial year by a yearly instalment of Rs. 18,000, including interest.

From the perusal of the above statement, you will come to know that the receipts of the present year are not sufficient to meet the expenditure; and it will take a long time before the State will be in a position to make both ends meet. Still, however, the Darbar are of opinion that, after the payment of the Gwalior loan, the State will be able to pay this new loan. Moreover, if you kindly offer your advice, the Darbar are ready to act up according to your wishes.

Statement showing the debt now outstanding against the Thabua State up to the end of February, 1901.

Details.	With interest.	Without interest.	Total.	Paid.				Unpaid.			Remarks.
				1898–99.	1899–1900.	1900–1901.	Total.	With interest.	Without interest.	Total.	
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	
At the time of late Dewan, 1898–99.	...	44,467	44,467	2,719	810	3,064	6,593	...	37,874	37,874	Rs. 16,443, the private debt of the late Chief. Rs. 21,431, the State debt.
His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia's loan—											
Rs. 60,000 1899–1900.											
40,000 1900–1901.	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	...	...	...	1,00,000	...	1.00,000	
1,00,000											
Other Sahukar's debt—											
Rs. 57,361 1899-1900.											
21,328 1900–1901.	78,689	...	78,689	...	...	...	...	78,689	...	78,689	
78,689											
Grand total ...	1,78.689	44,467	2,23,156	2,719	810	3,064	6,593	1,78,689	37,874	2,16,563	

No. 46.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 1826-I.A., dated Simla, the 9th May, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3663-G., dated the 15th April, 1901, regarding the financial position of the Jhabua and Jobat States.

2. In the circumstances explained, your proposal to report again on the subject a year hence is approved. There appear to be some errors in the statement of the financial position in Jobat, and corrected statement is enclosed.*

No. 47.

Letter from the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel C. Herbert, Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 5665-G., dated Indore, the 31st May, 1901.

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 1 of Mr. Bayley's letter No. 19 G.C., dated the 7th December, 1900, reporting the likelihood of a recurrence of scarcity in parts of the Bhopawar Agency, and to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, letter No. 2128, dated the 16th-17th May, 1901, from the Political Agent in Bhopawar, forwarding diary (for the period from 8th to 11th May, 1901) of Lieutenant H. Stewart, recently deputed to Bhopawar as Famine Assistant to the Political Agent.

2. The Resident at Gwalior has been requested to draw the attention of the Gwalior Darbar to the Political Agent's recommendation for an additional grant of Rs. 10,000 for distribution as taccavi in the Subat of Amjhera.

Enclosure in No. 47.

Letter from Captain E. Barnes, Political Agent in Bhopawar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 2128, dated Jhabua, the 16th–17th May, 1901.

I have the honour to submit, in original, a diary from the 8th to 11th May, which I have received from Lieutenant Stewart, Famine Assistant in this Agency.

2. The Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General will observe the urgent need of the liberal grant of taccavi to the assamis of the Bagh and Tanda districts. I understand that the Subah of Amjhera has applied for Rs. 5,000 for the whole Subat, but it is evident that this sum is insufficient. I would strongly recommend, for the consideration of the Gwalior Darbar, that, as the whole allotment for famine works will not be required, an additional Rs. 10,000 might be placed at the disposal of the Subah for distribution as taccavi. Out of the allotment which I have received from the Famine Fund, nearly Rs. 8,000 have been set aside for these parganas.

3. It is very difficult to explain the reason why in this area the Bhils have not resorted more freely to the works which have been opened. In the neighbouring State of Jobat where conditions are precisely similar, 20 per cent. of the population were employed on works from February to the end of April, when the "mohwa" crop ripened. In Bagh there is practically no "mohwa,"

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* Not printed.

and the most that the people can have is small stocks of grass seed. It is true that the Bhils of this part are less civilised and consequently more suspicious than their neighbours, and they have had no experience of relief works ; this may in part explain the difference in numbers. But the same thing is to be observed in Ali Rajpur, where in the neighbourhood of Bhabra, 1,300 persons are at work daily, while on the Hatni-Nanpur road, under the same economic conditions only about 200 people are or have been employed daily.

4. I would add that I passed through Bagh at the end of last month, and it appeared to me that the local officials were doing their best to induce the people to take advantage of the employment which was being offered to them.

Annexure.

Diary of Lieutenant H. Stewart, Famine Assistant, Bhopawar Agency, from 8th to 11th May, 1901. Dated Camp Nanpur, the 12th May, 1901.

8th May, 1901, Sardarpur to Tanda.—On my arrival at Tanda, I found about 700 Bhils assembled there. No distribution from the Charitable Fund appears to have been made here last year. Panna Lall says that perhaps Rs. 700 were given by the Kamdar of Nimkhera. There seems to be a very great dearth of cattle. The Sayawal and local Seths estimate that, to completely restore agriculture in Tanda and Balwari Tappas, 600 bullocks would be required. Judging from numerous instances of villages from which nine or ten assamis appeared before me, all of whom stated they had no cattle, I should not think that this was an exaggerated estimate. These men had all been passed as fitting recipients of charity by a committee consisting of the Sayawal Seth Umed Mall, other local Seths and Panna Lall. The circumstances of each man were also enquired into by me in the presence of all the local officials. The help which I was able to give from the Charitable Fund was a mere drop in the ocean of what is required. The cost of the local estimate of 600 bullocks would exceed the demand submitted to the Gwalior Darbar by the Subah of Amjhera for his whole district. I distributed the 50 bullocks which had been allotted to Tanda ; and on account of the great want of cattle, and also taking into consideration the fact that these people had had next to no help last year, I ventured to divert 20 bullocks from the Bagh allotment to Tanda and Balwari. I also arranged with Panna Lall that he should purchase Rs. 300 worth of bullocks from the sum of Rs. 3,000 which had been allotted to me. I gave tickets, redeemable in Sardarpur, for one bullock each to 15 Bhils of Balwari from this sum of Rs. 300. Panna Lall will arrange to supply them immediately on his return. I gave these tickets for bullocks instead of distributing cash, as it was the unanimous opinion of the local committee which I had called in that, if money were given, it would only be squandered. Besides which, as a proof of the high price of cattle, individual Bhils, when asked whether they would prefer Rs. 10 or a bullock, invariably chose the latter. Rs. 15 were the lowest sum at which they preferred money. I, therefore, gave none. 200 maunds of grain were also distributed. The number of villages to which partial help was thus given was 47.

I regret that I was unable to visit the works at Ambasoti in the afternoon as I had intended to do. The distribution from the Charitable Fund was not completed till very late in the evening. In the morning I saw about 20 Bhils, mostly women, at work there ; and a sowar whom I sent in the afternoon to bring information reported that there were 80 people on the work, of whom 20 were Bhils. At Ringnod there were three or four men working, but nowhere else between this and Tanda.

The following villages appear to need much assistance from the Darbar. The description given of the state of each village is that furnished by the people themselves in the presence of the Sayawal and local authorities, who in all cases confirmed the Bhils' statements. In this connection it may be added that the Sayawal states that he has often represented the state of Tanda and Balwari, but ineffectually as regards results.

Hasalwar of Bori, Tanda.—Sixteen assamis in great need of cattle. They appear to have committed thefts during the famine and to be in the bad books of the authorities. Could not help so many from the fund. Gave what I could, and promised I would report on their condition.

Gurariа.—Six tapris, all destitute. Gave two bullocks from the fund and some grain.

Garrawad.—Eleven tapris, very destitute. Could only help partially.

Jali.—Seventeen tapris, 11 need help.

Amongst other villages requiring help are Mirwali, Kaniamba, Bilda and Dari. Regarding the latter village I was told that before the famine there were always 60 pairs of agricultural bullocks available, while this year there are only five pairs.

9th May, Tanda to Bagh.—I found about 400 Bhils waiting at Bagh. Formed a local committee to eliminate the well-to-do. Process occupied the entire day. Physical

conditions good; but, as at Tanda, great want of cattle. The Supervisor of relief works in the Amjhera district, Saiyid Bashir Hussain, visited me in the evening. He told me that Rs. 30,000 has been sanctioned by the Darbar for relief works in Amjhera; but that, so long as the Bhils can get jungle produce, they will not come on works. He says he is trying his hardest to spend his allotment, but that he does not anticipate that he will be able to use more than Rs 10,000 of it. He suggested that this money should be diverted from works and all expended on the purchase of cattle.

10*th May, Bagh.*—I distributed cattle and grain to selected recipients of 43 villages of the Bagh Pargana. 161 bullocks were given away, of which number 129 were distributed by me on the spot and tickets given for the remainder, redeemable at Sardarpur, through Panna Lall. Owing to the very great scarcity of bullocks, I set aside Rs. 500 from my allotment for the purchase of additional cattle. A saving of between Rs. 120 and Rs. 150 was made from the grain allotment, and this money also was devoted to the purchase of cattle. Tickets for 349 maunds of grain were distributed. I think that, owing to the great assistance rendered by Panna Lall, the Kamasdar of Bakaner, the Naib Kamasdar of Bagh and the local Seths, the persons who received help were those who most needed it. But, as at Tanda, the assistance thus given from the Charitable Fund represents a very infinitesimal fraction of that which is required. The local Seths and village patels appear willing to advance grain to almost all cultivators who are in possession of bullocks. The great and pressing need both here and at Tanda is for an adequate supply of bullocks. Should these not be forthcoming in sufficient numbers, the rehabilitation of the district must be disastrously retarded.

11*th May, Bagh to Kuksi.*—Before leaving Bagh, I completed the grain and cattle distribution there. I also divided Rs. 47 worth of grain between 150 Bhil women and children who appeared to be very destitute. The supervisor of relief works in Amjhera, Saidid Bashir Hussain, rode with me from Bagh to Kuksi. He tells me that he has the greatest difficulty in persuading the Bhils to come to work, and complains that labour could be much more readily obtained if the Kamasdar and other local officials would assist him, which, he says, they do not. I found about 250 people, mostly women, working on the road about a mile out of Bagh. Work on the Bagh-Kuksi road is also proceeding close to Kuksi. Accompanied by the Kamasdar of Kuksi, I visited this work in the evening, and found about 200 persons present. Diggers are paid 2 annas, and carriers by the cowrie system. The Supervisor told me that this work and also that close to Bagh are the only two which are considered and treated as purely famine works. I also inspected a short road about 1 mile in length, which the Kamasdar has lately commenced. Beginning on the outskirts of the town, it is to run to the new camping ground at Kuksi; 105 labourers were present, of whom a large number were Kolis. I also visited the Kuksi-Chikalda road, but no one was working on that part of it, though the Kamasdar told me that work was going on some miles away.

No. 48.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 3460-*G., dated Indore, the* 10*th April*, 1901.

I have the honour to refer to my letter No. 1059-G., dated the 9th February, 1901,* regarding loans to Native States in this Agency during the year 1901–1902.

2. In paragraph 3 of that letter, I reported that the Dewas States were in straitened circumstances, but that they would probably be able to do without a loan from Government, if the Government of India would consent to the postponement for one year of the contingent payment due from them on the 1st March, 1901, and of the payment of the instalment, with interest, on the Gwalior loan. Failing this concession, it was stated that the Senior Branch would require a loan of one lakh of rupees, and that the Junior Branch would have to dispose of some of its investments in Government paper.

3. Since that report was made, the financial position of both the Dewas States has become worse. Violent hailstorms fell in the beginning of March last, and caused great destruction to the standing crops with the result that all hope of recovering revenue from a large portion of the two States is gone.

4. In addition, therefore, to the assistance specified in paragraph 2 above, it is now certain that both the Senior and Junior Branches of the State will

* Not printed.

require cash to the extent of one lakh of rupees each. The Indore Darbar, I understand, are willing to lend the sums required on the same terms as those on which the Gwalior famine loans were granted. Under the instructions conveyed to Mr. Henvey in your predecessor's letter No. 4360-I., dated the 14th November, 1889, it is permissible in certain circumstances for one State to assist another in a friendly way, provided that the sum which it is proposed to lend is trifling and can be easily repaid, and if the loan is made from friendly motives and as a temporary assistance to a neighbour, but the present case seems to me scarcely to come within this category. The Indore and Dewas States are on friendly terms, and the former would be glad to help the latter; but the amount of the proposed loans is considerable and the transaction is in the main a business one, enabling the borrowing States to tide over temporary difficulties, and Indore to invest money now lying idle. The present circumstances of Indore are of course peculiar, but as the loans would be made by the State and not by Maharaja Holkar personally, I do not see any objection to their being sanctioned, and I recommend, therefore, that sanction should be given.

See telegram from the Foreign Department, No. 3829-I.A., dated the 21st December, 1896.

5. The Junior Branch of the Dewas State has money invested in promissory notes to an amount more than sufficient to cover the loan, and would pay it off as soon as the price of Government paper rises to a point at which the securities could be sold without loss. In the case of the Junior Branch, a Government guarantee would not, therefore, be necessary. For the Senior Branch a guarantee would be required.

No. 49.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 1712-I.A., dated the 1st May, 1901.

Your letter 3460-G., April 10th. Dewas loans. Please furnish clear account of present financial position of both States, and report whether agricultural position has changed.

No. 50.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 5112-G., dated Indore, the 15th May, 1901.

With reference to Foreign Department telegram No. 1712-I.A., dated the 1st instant, and in continuation of my letter No. 3460-G., dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to report on the present financial position of the Senior and Junior Branches of the Dewas State.

2. The unsatisfactory outlook reported in paragraph 3 of the letter cited above has in no way improved.

The standing crops which were reported to be damaged have since been gathered, and anticipations in regard to the non-realisation of revenue have been fulfilled.

3. The financial year in both the Dewas States ends on the 31st May, so the position of their finances can be given very approximately. I attach statements* showing actuals of receipts and expenditure for both States up to

* Not printed.

the 30th April, and estimates of realisations and charges for the last month of the year.

The statements for the Senior Branch are marked S, S1 and S2, and those for the Junior Branch, J, J1 and J2.

4. Dealing first with the Senior Branch, statement S shows an abstract of estimates and actuals for both receipts and expenditure.

Statement S1 gives detailed heads of receipts, both budgetted and actual.

Statement S2 gives detailed heads of expenditure, budgetted and actual.

It will be noticed that the total receipts for the year will fall short of the amount estimated by nearly two lakhs. The total expenditure* for the year is shown as Rs. 4,37,905. This sum is well within budget grants, but it exceeds total receipts and so leaves a deficit.

* Exclusive of contingent payment, Rs. 16,000, and instalment with interest on Sindhia's loan, Rs. 32,770.

After the close of the present financial year on the 31st instant, no instalment of land revenue will be realised until the Dassehra festival in the middle of October next, and it is to tide over the intervening period that the State requires the loan of one lakh that has been asked for.

5. Next as regards the Junior Branch. The statements (marked J, J1 and J2) for this State are similarly prepared to those of the Senior Branch, which are explained in the foregoing paragraph.

The circumstances of this State are very similar to those of the Senior Branch.

Expenditure (Rs. 4,28,322) has been kept well within budget allotments (Rs. 4,70,204), but it has exceeded receipts (Rs. 3,12,487), and there will be a deficit at the end of the present financial year. As with the Senior Branch, no land revenue will be collected in the interval between the 31st instant and the Dassehra festival in October next, and hence the necessity for some provision to meet administrative and other charges which, it is estimated, will amount to about Rs. 80,000.

No. 51.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 2287-I.A., dated Simla, the 11th June, 1901.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert's letter No. 5112 G., dated the 15th May, 1901, I am directed to authorise your arranging with the Indore Darbar for the loan, at 4 per cent. interest, of one lakh of rupees each to the senior and junior branches of the Dewas State.

2. The terms of the Gwalior famine loans may, as Mr. Bayley suggested, be applied so far as they are applicable to these loans from Indore, and the guarantee of the Government of India may be given in respect to the loan to the senior branch.

3. The contingent payments,* which were due from the Dewas States on the 1st March, 1901, may be postponed for one year; and, subject to the acquiescence of the Maharaja Sindhia, the instalments,† with interest, which are due on the loans obtained from Gwalior last year, may be similarly postponed for one year.

* About Rs. 32,000 in all.
† About Rs. 68,000.

REGULATION OF RELIEF WAGES AND MEASURES AGAINST LAWLESSNESS.

No. 52.

From C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8236-G., dated Indore, the 31st July, 1900.

A copy of your letter No. 1008 I.-A., dated the 26th February, 1900,* was forwarded to all Political Officers in Central India, their special attention being directed to the necessity for advising Darbars to see that daily payments on famine relief works did not exceed a fair subsistence wage, and that so far as possible a full day's work was exacted from each able-bodied labourer. The early and careful consideration of Political Officers was invited to the increase in dakaiti which had been noticed by the Government of India, and they were asked to suggest any measures which appeared to them necessary with a view to strengthening or supporting the police of the various Darbars, or any other steps which they could recommend for the check and prevention of lawlessness.

2. All replies have now been received, and I have the honour to submit the following brief abstract of them for the information of the Government of India, taking the subjects of famine relief and increase of crime separately. In regard to famine relief :—

I.—The Political Agent in Bhopawar reports that the question of wages on relief works is one that has received constant attention. The highest rates paid have been the equivalent of 19 and 17 chittacks as a maximum, and 14 and 13 as a minimum for men and women, respectively. These were paid on one work supported by Gwalior. In Barwani the rate for men has been 16 and that for women 12 chittacks. In both cases the outturn of work was satisfactory. Elsewhere in the Agency a wage of 12 chittacks for a man and 10 for a woman was given for a day's work of eight hours. This was given as a minimum wage in view of the impossibility of exacting a full task from the Bhils, who, like other jungle tribes elsewhere, had to be specially treated. On the whole, Mr. Bosanquet considers that the results have been very fairly satisfactory, though at first special leniency had to be shown in order to get the Bhils to come to the works at all.

II.—The Political Agent in Malwa circulated copies of the wages tables for famine relief issued by the Government of the North-Western Provinces to all Darbars. In consequence of variations in prices, the rate of the wage at each work has been controlled by the Central Famine Officer of each State under the orders of his Darbar. The wage table has not, however, been generally followed. Experience showed that, so long as a male worker received sufficient to enable him to purchase 12 chittacks daily, there were no complaints, and that the workers improved in health and condition on this as a minimum wage. In Jaora and Rutlam a maximum wage exceeding the minimum by two pice was allowed for those who got through the allotted task and a full day's work was generally exacted from all able-bodied persons. The Political Agent, however, did not lay too great stress on this point, as on one occasion an attempt in this direction led to the desertion of a number of workers, who being fined for short work, returned to their homes, preferring death there to being worked beyond their strength.

III.—In Bundelkhand there was no famine, merely slight scarcity and distress. Test works were opened and particular care was taken to advise the Darbars to exact piece work and pay the fair subsistence wage recommended by Captain Ewbank in grain instead of cash ; and to ensure that the works should act effectively as a test of the real need for relief.

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* See page 164 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.

IV.—In Baghelkhand the Famine Assistants have, the Political Agent reports, been most careful to ensure the wage given not being in excess of a fair subsistence wage and to increase the task wherever necessary.

V.—In the States of the Bhopal Agency the Political Agent asserts confidently from personal observation that the rates of wages given have not been excessively high, and that the task prescribed was adequate to ensure a full day's work.

VI.—In Indore the Resident reports that wages are not unnecessarily high, being only enough to enable the labourers to purchase a fair subsistence wage and that as much work as possible is exacted.

VII.—The portions of Gwalior comprised in the Resident's jurisdiction have been practically free from famine.

3. In regard to the increase of dakaiti :—

I.—The Political Agent in Bhopawar states that the 332 cases reported in 1899 were not the work of organised gangs and were for the most part due to the delay which took place in some States in affording relief to the Bhils, who thereupon helped themselves to the grain of their richer neighbours. They were accompanied by extraordinarily little violence or even interference with property other than grain. Since October everything possible has been done to strengthen the hands of the Darbars in maintaining order, and in addition to the extra police which they enlisted they have been assisted by patrolling parties of the Malwa Bhil Corps, in which every available man in the regiment has been employed. Dhar and Barwani have been supplied with arms by Government, and Jhabua has received a special loan of breech-loading weapons. During the present year there have been two outbreaks of dakaiti by organised gangs, but both these have been satisfactorily suppressed.

II.—In Malwa the Political Agent is of opinion that the dakaitis, which have been committed in Rutlam and Sailana, have been the work of Bhils from across the border in Banswara and Partabgarh, a view which is corroborated by the fact that the Bhils of the former States residing near the frontier have, in some instances, deserted their hamlets in fear of raids by their Rajputana kinsfolk. A system of patrols has done much to prevent these incursions. The dakaitis in the States in the interior have been the work of all classes, but as a rule the cases have not been serious, and Captain Cubitt considers that the police forces of the States have been sufficient to prevent and suppress serious crime.

III.—In Bundelkhand no increase of dakaiti has taken place.

IV.—In Baghelkhand no dakaiti was reported in 1899 and only one case has occurred this year.

V.—The Political Agent in Bhopal reports that there was a marked increase in crime while relief measures were under consideration. Mr. Lang has not, however, noticed that crime has been prevalent since he took over charge, and sees no reason to differ from the Darbars, who report that adequate measures for its suppression are taken by enforcing upon jagirdars their responsibility for watch and ward by the use of *savars* and a proper system of patrols.

VI.—In Gwalior the Secretary to the Darbar reported to the Resident that many of the so-called dakaitis had been merely grain riots, and that, if these were deducted from the total number of cases, dakaiti would be seen not to have increased. One hundred and six cases (of which 28 were grain riots) had been reported in 1899—a figure which compared very favourably with that for 1897 (167) which also was a year of famine. The Resident has made further enquiries as to the necessity for strengthening the police force, but has not yet received a reply. The question of police reform is, I know, engaging the attention of the Darbar.

VII.—In Indore the Resident is of opinion that the only way of checking dakaiti in a year like this is to provide proper relief for the hungry. To meet

the special case of the Bhils, the reserved forests of the States have been thrown open for the free cutting of grass, wood and other jungle produce, and Bhils are employed on many of the relief works of the State.

4. A careful perusal of the replies received and of the other reports which have constantly come before me, and personal inspection have led me to the belief that, though relief works are unquestionably not managed with the same strictness as in British India, the results of famine administration have on the whole been decidedly satisfactory, and, while adequate relief has been provided, fair tasks have been exacted. As the Government of India are aware, the Native States, speaking generally, are not accustomed to arrange matters with the same precision and attention to rules as are observed in British districts, and, however desirous the Darbars might be to work on these principles, few of them have got the trained establishments necessary for the purpose. Some latitude must, therefore, be allowed, and it is very necessary in some cases to be cautious in giving advice which would only too readily be accepted as a hint to unduly curtail relief.

5. In regard to dakaiti there has undoubtedly been an increase of crime, but, as surmised by the Government of India, this increase has been largely the work of Bhils and other jungle tribes suffering from want, and there is not, I think, any reason to suppose that the Darbars require more assistance than has been given to them by the Malwa Bhil Corps and the Thagi and Dakaiti Department.

6. With the advent of good rain, the numbers on relief works have largely decreased, and once the harvest is ripe, it may fairly be anticipated that crime will resume its normal proportion.

AGRICULTURAL FORECASTS.

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER, 1901.

No. 53.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary to the Agent to the Governor-General, Indore, No. 3793 I.A., dated Simla, the 11th October, 1901.

Please furnish by letter a brief up-to-date report on the agricultural position and prospects in Central India.

If distress or serious scarcity is anticipated in any quarter, please let us have the earliest possible warning.

No. 54.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary to the Agent to the Governor-General, Indore, No. 3958 I.A., dated Simla, the 29th October, 1901.

The report called for in my telegram, No. 3793 I.A., October 11th, should show, if possible, to what extent situation has been improved by recent rain.

I presume you are keeping Rajputana informed of position in Malwa with a view to checking undesirable immigration.

No. 55.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Meade, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to H. S. Barnes, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 11651 *G., dated Indore, the* 29*th October*, 1901.

With reference to Foreign Department telegram, No. 3793 I.A., dated the 11th October, 1901, I have the honour to furnish below a summary of the reports received from Political Officers on the agricultural position and prospects in Central India.

Bhopawar Agency, Dhar.—The rainfall has been below the average and there is a deficiency of water-supply. Tanks are almost all dry, and the wells are for the most part low. The makka crop in the Ghat country has been fair to good, and the people have sufficient food-supply for three or four months. The jowar and til crops will yield about six annas in the rupee—the former is withering for want of rain, and the latter has been damaged by rats and insects. Wheat and gram, if not destroyed, are expected to yield a six to eight anna crop. Scarcity will not be felt till February or March next, when relief works will be needed in some places.

Barwani.—The rainfall was deficient except in the hilly districts. No distress is anticipated in the Jalgaon and Silawad districts of the State. In the Nerbudda pargana the crops have particularly failed. The bajra crop has been fairly good and will carry the people on for two or three months. Works will be needed in February or March, and the necessary steps are being taken.

Ali Rajpur.—The rainfall was slightly below the average. The early kharif crops are good and will support the people till the middle of March next. The later kharif crops have been partially damaged by the cessation of the rains in September. If the mohwa, mango and chironji crops in the spring are normal, the people will carry on well till the next rains. A few works may be necessary about April or May next, and this has already been provided for.

Jhabua.—The rainfall was generally sufficient and the makka crop was good. No scarcity is therefore anticipated.

Jobat.—The rainfall was deficient and has seriously affected the water-supply. The makka crop was good, and the food-supply is sufficient for the year.

Amjhera (*Gwalior*).—In the Bagh and Bakaner districts below the Ghats the rainfall was considerably deficient, and the works which were started last year will be maintained and should suffice.

Minor States.—Their condition is fairly good except the smaller ones, viz., Garhi, Bharudpura, Kotideh and Chiktiaba, where the rainfall was deficient, and only an eight-anna kharif crop is expected. The people in need of relief in these estates will be provided for on the works which will be started by the Dhar Darbar in the Dharampuri district.

General.—Fodder is plentiful everywhere and the effect of the unfavourable monsoon will be felt chiefly by the Darbars who will not be able to realise a full revenue.

Bhopal Agency.—The kharif crops, though partially damaged, are expected to yield eight annas in the rupee, and the prospects of the rabi are good. There is no cause to apprehend any marked distress or serious scarcity in any part of the Agency.

Malwa Agency.—The rainfall in this Agency varied. It was normal in the Shahjahanpur and Agar districts to the east of the Chambal and also in the Indore district of Mehidpur, while in the other parts of the Agency it was below normal. In the latter areas the wells are low and the tanks almost dry. The makka crop has averaged from four to eight annas, and more rain is wanted to save the jowari crop. Should the jowari crop be saved there is little or no

likelihood of general distress. Fodder is plentiful. At the worst relief will not be needed till next year.. If the States abstain from insisting on the payment of full revenue, the people will, on the whole, be able to support themselves without further assistance in any case for some months.

Indore.—The parts chiefly affected are the districts of Rampura, Bhanpura, Pitlawad, and Chikalda. Although the rainfall was deficient, it was fairly well distributed, and the crops are better than might have been expected. The principal source of anxiety at present is the deficiency of tank water. Steps have been taken to preserve and improve the existing water-supply, and liberal grants have also been made for the purchase of seed grains. The Darbar are alive to their responsibilities and are prepared to take any further steps that may be necessary.

Dewas.—The prospects in this State (both branches) are fairly satisfactory and there is no immediate apprehension of scarcity or famine. The water-supply in parts of the State is deficient, and the makka and jowar crops have also suffered; but the prospects of the rabi are fair to good.

Baghelkhand and Bundelkhand Agencies.—The prospects in these Agencies are very good and there are no apprehensions of scarcity.

Generally there has been insufficient rain throughout the western portion of Central India. The rains commenced late, the first considerable falls taking place towards the end of July, and they ceased sooner than usual, there being practically no rain after the 1st September. The consequence is that the tanks have not filled, and there is certain, in the western parts of the Central India Agency, to be a want of water. Fodder is, however, plentiful everywhere, and there should be no loss of cattle.

2. Since the above reports were written the parts most affected have had some rain which has considerably improved the prospects, and there is no reason to anticipate much trouble except perhaps in the Indore and Gwalior Districts in the vicinity of Neemach, and even there the prospects are better than they were.

3. In conclusion I would add that by the middle of next month the position of affairs will be better known, and a further report will then be prepared and submitted for the information of the Government of India.

No. 56.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., I.C.S., Ayent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 12911-G.A., dated Indore, the 29th November, 1901.

In continuation of Colonel Meade's letter No. 11651-G., dated the 29th October, 1901, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a summary of later and more detailed reports furnished by Political officers on the agricultural position and prospects in Central India.

Bhopawar Agency.

Dhar.—As previously reported the rainfall was below the average and water supply is deficient.

In the Malwa districts of the State the makka crop, the staple food of the country, is estimated at 8 annas, the cotton crop at 4 annas, and the jowar at 6 annas. In the Nimar districts the kharif has not been so good. In Dharampuri the makka and bajra crops are estimated at 4 annas, and the jowar at 6 annas. In Kukshi and Thikri the makka crop is estimated at only $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas and the jowar and bajra at 2 annas.

The Political Agent, however, is not satisfied of the accuracy of the above estimates, and thinks that the kharif crop has actually been better than reported by the local officials. This point will be further investigated, if possible. As regards the rabi harvest there is practically no crop in Nimar. In Malwa 75 per cent. of the usual area has been sown, and wheat and gram have already germinated well, and if the winter rains are favourable, the crop should be satisfactory. Owing to the scarcity of water, little or no opium will be grown except in the Dhar Pargana.

Relief works may be required in Nimar by the middle of February. In the Malwa districts of the State they will not be necessary till the end of March or beginning of April, while timely winter rains may obviate the necessity altogether.

To meet the difficulty about the water-supply orders were issued early in October to all local authorities to take immediate steps to clean and deepen existing wells and springs, to construct *bands* in running streams, and to sink new wells and springs (*jhiras*) wherever practicable. This work will amply meet present requirements in the matter of relief. Opportunity will also be taken to continue work on roads which have not been completed.

Barwani.—In the Narbada valley districts, comprising the parganas of Barwani, Rajpur and Anjar, the rainfall was below the average, while in the hilly districts including the parganas of Pansemal, Khetia, Niwali, Silawad and Pati it was fairly satisfactory, and but for the plague of rats and insects the kharif crop would have been good. Late but partial rain in October benefited many parts of the State, but in the Narbada valley districts crops have failed to a great extent.

In the Rajpur, Anjar and Barwani parganas, the kharif is estimated at from 2 to 6 annas. In the hilly districts it is better, and one of the parganas, Silawad, has practically a bumper crop.

The prospects of the rabi are better than they were last year, though compared with a normal year they are very poor in the Narbada valley. In the Barwani, Rajpur and Anjar parganas wheat and gram are estimated at 2 to 3 annas. As regards the hilly districts no rabi worth mentioning is sown in the Pati pargana, while elsewhere the outturn is estimated at from 12 to 14 annas in the rupee.

It is believed that relief works will be necessary in the Barwani pargana in January, and later on in the parganas of Anjar, Rajpur and Pati, and an ample programme of roads and irrigation projects is ready.

Ali Rajpur.—The rainfall was deficient but the early kharif crops would have been normal but for the plague of rats. As it is the outturn of bajra and makka is estimated at 9 and 12 annas respectively.

The later kharif crops, jowar, tilli, urad, rice, &c., have been practically ruined by drought and locusts. The rabi prospects are bad, and the *dobakura* grass, which last year seeded so abundantly and afforded additional food to the people, has not flowered at all this year.

Some scarcity will, it is expected, be felt about February, and to meet it work on the Rajpur-Bhabra and Hatni-Nanpur roads will be continued. Two irrigation projects have also been prepared. These works, the Political Agent considers, will fully suffice to meet the necessities of the case.

Jobat.—The rainfall was below the average, and much damage was done to the early kharif crops by rats, while the later crops suffered from the early cessation of the rains. On the whole, the average of the kharif crop is estimated at 8 annas in the rupee.

Scarcity of water has already begun to be felt. The cleaning and deepening of existing wells is now going on, and new wells will be sunk where necessary.

It is not anticipated that any relief works need be started till March 1902, and it will then be sufficient if the people are employed in their villages on new wells and other small works.

Indore territory within the Bhopawar Agency.—In the Pitlawad pargana the rainfall was much below the average. The Darbar have sanctioned funds for the construction of a large *band* near Pitlawad, and also for the repair and construction of wells in 16 villages.

In the Khargon district (Nimar) the situation is better. No relief works will be needed before the end of February or the middle of March. The Darbar have sanctioned Rs. 15,000 for the construction of wells and tanks in this district.

Amjhera district (*Gwalior*).—Above the Ghats the conditions are much the same as in the Malwa parganas of Dhar, and below they resemble those in the Dharampuri and Kuksi parganas. The condition of this district has been brought to Maharaja Sindhia's notice, and the continuance of the works at present in progress has been sanctioned. These will, it is hoped, suffice to meet all demand for employment, but if more work is required it can easily be provided.

Minor Estates.—These estates may be divided into two classes—(1) Guaranteed Thakurats and (2) Guaranteed Bhumiats—the latter being sub-divided into (1) Bhumiats in Malwa, and (2) those in Nimar.

The Guaranteed Thakurats lie in the Badnawar pargana of Dhar. The rainfall in these estates was about half the normal. The average makka crop is estimated at 12 annas in the rupee, and the jowar at 6 annas. The tilli, tuar and cotton crops are estimated at from 2 to 4 annas in the rupee. Prospects of the rabi harvest are generally fair. Very little opium is likely to be grown owing to the scantiness of the water supply.

In the Bhil settlements the makka crop is an average one, and with a good mohwa crop and other jungle fruit the people should be able to subsist—till next rains.

The Bhumiats of Jamnia, Nimkhera and Bara and Chota Barkhera are situated in Malwa above the Ghats. The makka crop is an average one in Nimkhera, and from about 12 to 14 annas in the other three estates. In the Bhumiats below the Ghats the yield is estimated at from 4 to 8 annas in the rupee. The Bhils have enough food for the present, and no works will be needed till the end of March 1902. If necessary the Bhils of the poorer Bhumiats will be drafted on to works opened by the Dhar Darbar in adjoining parganas.

Jhabua.—The rainfall was deficient and very unevenly distributed. Rats and insects damaged the kharif which would otherwise have been an average crop. The outturn is estimated at from 10 to 15 annas in the rupee. The prospects of the rabi are poor owing to the early cessation of the rains. The grass supply is ample for the year's requirements. The water-supply is short, and steps are being taken to deepen and repair existing wells. No relief works will be required until March, when it will be necessary to provide employment in order to prevent emigration. For this purpose a famine loan of Rs. 30,000 will be required. In the southern and centre portions of the State repairs to existing tanks and the construction of new wells will provide the necessary relief; while in the parganas to the north it is proposed to construct new wells, to complete the Thandla-Bajarangarh road, and to construct a feeder road from the Meghnagar Railway Station to Rambhapur, a distance of four miles.

Gwalior Residency.

Gwalior.—The parts of the Gwalior State most affected are the Amjhera and Nimach districts which lie respectively within the Bhopawar and Malwa Agencies. The condition of these districts is noticed under the Agencies to which they belong. The Gwalior Darbar are alive to their responsibilities, and large sums of money have already been advanced for distribution to landowners.

Kaniadhana.—The kharif crop was very poor and the prospects of the rabi are said to be gloomy. The people are impoverished and the State is not

in a position to continue relief works. It may, therefore, be necessary to assist the State with a loan, and the Resident has called for further particulars on this point.

Raghogarh, Garha and Parone.—There is no need for anxiety so far as these States are concerned.

Agra Barkhera.—The kharif is estimated to yield from six to eight annas, and the Kamdar has suggested opening relief works for about 600 people. The Resident is considering the question.

Bhadaura.—This is a small impoverished State, and out of 14 villages having cultivation four have suffered from locusts as well as insufficient rain. The outturn of the kharif harvest is estimated at three annas in the rupee. In the other ten villages it may realize six annas. It is hoped that the people will manage to subsist on their cattle and the sale of grass, which is plentiful, and of forest produce.

Dharnaoda, Umri and Khiaoda.—No famine is anticipated in these States.

No report has been received from the small State of Sirsi; but the condition of the people is believed to be fair.

Malwa Agency.

To the east of the Chambal river lie the Ujjain, Agar and Shahjahanpur districts of Gwalior; the Bhanpura and Mehidpur districts of Indore, with the outlying Tehsils of Tarana and Kayatha; and the Pirawa district of Tonk. In three of these districts, viz., Ujjain, Mehidpur and Bhanpura, the rainfall was nearly 50 per cent. below the normal, but in the two latter only is there any apprehension of scarcity. Here, however, the Indore Darbar are fully prepared to deal with any distress that may occur. The necessity for relief, it is expected, will not occur until April or May next, and this will be obviated if a good rabi harvest is obtained.

To the west of the Chambal lie the Rampura district of Indore; the Nimach and Mandsaur districts and a part of the Ujjain district of Gwalior; the four States of Jaora, Rutlam, Sailana and Sitamau; the estate of Piploda and the three Tehsils of the Dewas States.

There is no fear of real famine in any of these areas, though the situation in Nimach and Rampura is poor.

Small relief works will, the Political Agent considers, probably be necessary in December for a short time in some parts of the Agency, and again during May and June in Nimach, Rampura and Bhanpura and parts of Jaora.

Bhopal, Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand Agencies.

In these Agencies the prospects are good and there is no fear of any scarcity or famine.

2. The foregoing summary shows that, although some relief will probably be necessary later on in parts of the Bhopawar and Malwa Agencies, a general famine is not to be apprehended. The Darbars and Political officers concerned are alive to the situation, and necessary steps have been and are being taken to meet all present and future requirements. In one important respect the situation is more favourable than it was in 1899–1900. The Darbars have learnt by sad experience how to deal with famine when it occurs, and the people are alive to the fact that relief will be given when necessary. My winter tour, on which I start to-morrow, extends through the Bhopawar and Malwa Agencies, and I shall thus be enabled to see the tracts, where the crops have failed, and to discuss the situation with the Political Agents and local officials.

II.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

THE BOMBAY NATIVE STATES.

No. 57.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Calcutta, No. 860, dated Bombay Castle, the 13th February, 1900.

With reference to your telegram No. 3844-I.A., dated 22nd December, 1899,* I am directed to forward for submission to the Government of India copies of the letters† from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, specified in the margin. It has not been possible to reply within the time prescribed as Colonel Hunter did not in the first instance furnish all the information required.

No. 29, dated 11th January, 1900.
No. 79, dated 1st February, 1900.

2. The Political Agent has in the first of his letters explained the manner in which he has disposed of the sum of 8¼ lakhs placed at his credit before the receipt of your telegram of 22nd of December and in which he purposes making use of the further advances of 13 lakhs sanctioned in that telegram. The course which he has followed appears to the Governor in Council to be judicious.

3. In the second of his letters Colonel Hunter has submitted a revised estimate of the requirements of the several States and Thana Circles. The elimination of such as are willing to borrow from private sources under a guarantee of Government results in a reduction of ... ... Rs. 49,65,649
and he has curtailed his estimate of needs for administration by ... ... „ 3,76,495
and of those for famine relief by ... ... „ 1,89,989

making a total reduction of ... ... „ 55,32,133
On the other hand he has asked for aid to other States to the amount of ... ... „ 12,39,012

This would make a decrease of ... ... „ 42,93,121
and by altering his estimate of incomes and available balances he reduces his original demand by ... ... „ 45,68,841

In round figures he now calculates the requirements from Government to be 37 lakhs instead of 82, and he considers the sum of 21¼ lakhs already advanced to be sufficient for the current year.

4. But a condition of the main reduction is permission to this Government to guarantee the repayment of loans made to States by private persons or bodies.

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* Not printed.
† See page 187 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.

The guarantee may take the form of an undertaking that in the event of the loan with interest not being discharged in accordance with the stipulations, Government will take the State under management and arrange for the repayment of the loan in priority to all other claims except tribute and other Government dues. As in the case of loans from Government the Chiefs will be asked to give formal consent to the exercise of this power by Government in the event of its being required. I am now to request that His Excellency the Governor General in Council will as soon as possible accord permission to this Government to give the guarantee, if this course is considered preferable to the advance of money by Government. It is probable that money will be lent under such a guarantee at moderate interest, perhaps about 5 per cent., and there is no reason why the States referred to should not subject to that guarantee and to the approval of the terms by the Political Agent make their own arrangements, if in the present emergency it is not convenient for the Government of India to provide the necessary funds. It will be observed that Colonel Hunter is calculating on the refund of sums by the States which purpose contracting such loans to enable him to make advances now required by other States, and the early grant of the permission solicited is very desirable.

5. The reduction in the estimate of requirements for administrative purposes has been made by the Political Agent in deference to the opinion of the Government of India. On this point and also in regard to the estimate of income in the current year and available balances the Governor in Council has no means of forming an independent judgment. In several cases there has been a considerable excess of income over expenditure in the past three years although no balance is shown as available, and it has presumably been transferred to the *Khasgi* Department. The figures furnished by the States must be taken for what they are worth, and time only will show which estimate is the more correct.

6. As regards the estimate of requirements for famine relief His Excellency in Council would have preferred to adhere to the method of calculation before adopted. In States in which the distress is classed as intense the proportion of the population in receipt of relief has varied from 1 to 25 per cent., and depends more on the character of the Chief and attitude of the Darbar than on other circumstances. The Political Agent mentions a case in which relief was curtailed to a dangerous extent, but there are on the other hand instances in which it is given lavishly, no effective tests at all being applied. The Political Agent and his Special Assistant spare no pains to remedy errors in both directions, and if they succeed, the principle on which the estimate of relief required is made should be the same in all States in which the conditions are the same, and the extent to which relief has been so far given is not a safe guide for the future. The Governor in Council therefore does not consider that there are sufficient grounds for the reduction by about one-third in the estimate of requirements for famine relief in certain States in which the distress is classed as intense, but as the aggregate amount of reduction on that account is not large, and the question is merely one of estimate, which in the circumstances is not much better than conjecture, the figures may be taken for what they are worth.

7. As regards the penultimate question in your telegram I am to say that the Governor in Council is of opinion that the payment of all tribute payable by the Native States in Kathiawar and all the Gujarat Agencies which is due up to the ensuing monsoon and has not yet been paid should be suspended. If this course is followed, there will be a further reduction in the estimate of requirements for administrative purposes.

8. With reference to the last question in your telegram I am to invite attention to Mr. Edgerley's letters Nos. 274,* dated 15th ultimo, and 365,* dated 16th idem, and to express a hope that the Government of India will at their earliest convenience determine whether inter-statal loans are to be permitted. Pending this decision it is impossible to make satisfactory arrangements for meeting the immediate requirements of the States.

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* Not printed.

No. 58.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2137, dated Bombay Castle, the 20th March, 1900.

I am directed to refer to Mr. Edgerley's letter, No. 7531, dated the 3rd November, 1899, and to forward herewith, for the orders of the Government of India, copy of a telegram, No. 73, dated the 3rd March, 1900,* from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, intimating that the Thakur Sahib of Wadhwan now desires to borrow seven lakhs of rupees, under a guarantee from Government, in gold from a London capitalist. I am at the same time to forward copy of the Political Agent's letter, No. 130, dated the 24th February, 1900,* intimating that other States in Kathiawar are desirous of borrowing in the English market to meet the expenses of administration and famine relief, and to state that if the present proposal from the Thakur Sahib of Wadhwan is entertained, it is probable that similar proposals will shortly be received from other States in Kathiawar.

2. In view of the orders of the Government of India on the subject of loans made by British capitalists to Native States, contained in confidential letter, No. 81-I., dated the 8th January, 1891, I am to state that the Governor in Council is not prepared to recommend that the Chief be permitted to borrow the full amount of seven lakhs in London. Of the total amount, two lakhs were required for liquidating old debts, and two lakhs for a railway investment which has since become impossible, owing to the decision that the metre-gauge railway from Wadhwan to Rajkot should be made by the Morvi State. But the remaining three lakhs are urgently required for the actual administration and famine relief expenses of the State during this year, and the Governor in Council is of opinion that, for the reasons set forth in Colonel Hunter's letter, No. 130, dated the 24th February, 1900, Native States might be permitted to borrow in England the funds legitimately required for such purposes, the previous sanction of Government being, of course, obtained in each case. The terms of the guarantees proposed in Colonel Hunter's telegram, dated the 3rd March, 1900, seem to the Governor in Council to be unobjectionable.

3. For the above reasons I am to state that the Governor in Council would recommend that the Chief of Wadhwan should be permitted to borrow three lakhs of rupees in London under a guarantee from Government. I am also to request that the orders of the Government of India may be communicated at an early date, by telegram, if possible, as the matter is urgent, and because it is desirable to advise the Secretary of State of the sanction as soon as it is given.

No. 59.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2450 of 1900, dated Bombay Castle, 30th March, 1900.

I am directed to refer to paragraph 8 of Mr. Edgerley's letter No. 274* dated the 15th January, 1900, in which it was stated that the Akalkot State would be able to meet the expenses of administration and famine relief this year by drawing on a sum of Rs. 2,73,000 which had been put by for the marriage

* Not printed.

expenses of the late Raje Saheb's daughters. In this connection I am now directed to forward, for the information of Government of India, copies of the marginally noted letters* explaining the circumstances and conditions under which the late Raje Saheb established this fund for marriage expenses, and containing a request that Government will be pleased to let the fund remain intact and either grant a loan for famine expenditure or permit the State to raise the necessary amount in the open market.

* Letters from the Political Agent, Akalkot, No. D.—592, dated the 19th January, 1900, and No. D.—1078, dated the 13th February, 1900, with accompaniments.

2. Looking to the fact that two of the daughters of the late Raje Saheb are to be married within the next six months, the request is, I am to say, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, a reasonable one. As the financial condition of the State is sound and no difficulty is anticipated in borrowing the amount required, *viz.*, Rs. 3,00,000 in the open Indian market, the Governor in Council does not press for a loan from Imperial revenues, but would recommend that permission be given to the State to borrow the amount in the open market in India.

3. I am directed in conclusion to ask that, as the matter is urgent, the orders of the Government of India may, if possible, be communicated by telegram.

No. 60.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 1499 *I.A., dated the 6th April,* 1900.

Your letters in the Political Department, numbers 2137 of 20th, 2270 of 24th,** and 2450 of 30th, and telegram 3 M. of 31st March† regarding famine loans, are under consideration, and orders will issue presently. Meanwhile, as at present advised, Government are not disposed to agree to the raising of private loans in London.

No. 61.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Famine Department, No. 1605 *I.A., dated the 14th April,* 1900.

No. 1605 I.A. My telegram 1499 I.A., April 6th. Government of India have now decided that the States cannot be permitted to borrow in England, but Government of India are prepared to permit them to borrow in Indian market sums absolutely required under a Government guarantee, the basis of which would be that, if any State failed to make the payments required under the terms of the loan, the Government of India would assume responsibility for these payments, and might at same time take the State under management. Please report what States the Governor in Council would permit to borrow on above basis, what sums each such State would require, and when the funds would be needed. In furnishing these estimates, please bear in mind instructions issued in my letter 1519 I.-A., April 7th,‡ and orders as to suspension of tribute, &c., conveyed in my telegram 1 C., March 3rd.*

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* Not printed.
** Giving details of proposed loans—not printed.
† Requesting reply to letter 2137, of 20th March.
‡ *See* page 198 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.

No. 62.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 49 M., dated Bombay Castle, the 23rd April, 1900.

With reference to your letter No. 1009 I.A., dated the 26th February, 1900* regarding loans to Native States for famine relief purposes, I am directed to forward herewith, for the early consideration of the Government of India, copies of a letter† and telegram from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, asking for a further allotment of 14 lakhs for the purpose of making loans for the purpose of famine relief and administrative expenditure in Native States and Thanas in Kathiawar. The Political Agent reports that of this amount 5 lakhs will be required on the 1st May, 5 lakhs on 1st June, and 4 lakhs on 1st July.

† Letter from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 245, dated the 9th April, 1900.
Telegram to the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 41 M., dated the 20th April, 1900.
Telegram from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 118, dated the 21st April, 1900.

2. I am directed to state that, after giving the subject his most careful attention, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the grants asked for are absolutely required, if serious loss of life from starvation is to be prevented. The explanation given by Colonel Hunter in paragraph 7 of his letter will, the Governor in Council trusts, induce the Government of India to modify to some extent their opinion that the famine operations in Kathiawar are being conducted on an extravagant scale. But besides this, Government have the assurance both of the Political Agent and his Special Famine Assistant, and also of the Honourable Mr. Monteath, Chief Secretary to Government, who visited Kathiawar and inspected some of the relief works in January last, that the tests for relief on those works, which are being financed by Government loans, are as severe as they can safely be made. The task-table of the Bombay Famine Relief Code has been entirely discarded, and tasks about 50 per cent. heavier are exacted. Fining is, where this can be done without danger to life, permitted without a limit, and the Chief Secretary to Government on the occasion of his visit found that some gangs were being fined 70 per cent. of the maximum pay. In fact, wherever the task system is in force, it approximates very closely to piece-work. On several large works where the piece-work system is being worked, the average daily wage earned by adults is not more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of grain. Whenever possible, the distance test is enforced and the necessity for the concentration of famine labour on large central works has been carefully kept in view. In short, I am to say that the tests for relief on works financed by Government loans in Kathiawar are so severe that no further stiffening would, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be possible without incurring the risk of considerable mortality.

3. I am to state further that only in the case of three States—Junagadh, Wankanir and Lakhtar—have the Political Officers found it necessary to advise the Chiefs to be more liberal in their relief operations. It was found that, owing to the entirely inadequate arrangements in these States, a considerable number of people were dying of actual starvation, and the Governor in Council considers that the Political Officers would have failed in their duty had they not exerted themselves to stop this mortality. Elsewhere in the province, the efforts of Government have been from the first mainly directed to checking extravagance, and introducing a certain amount of uniformity in the mode of giving relief, so as to prevent the danger of large numbers of destitute people wandering from State to State about the province. The receipt of your letter No. 1519 I.A., dated 7th April, 1900‡ was made the occasion for again impressing on all Political Officers the necessity for limiting their interference with the relief arrangements of Native States to the amount actually required

* *See* page 192 of Command Paper No. 206 presented in 1900.
‡ *See* page 198 of ditto.

to prevent death from starvation, and the Governor in Council, I am to state, does not, on careful consideration, believe that that limit is being exceeded.

4. In conclusion I am to request that, in view of the urgency of the matter, as explained in the Political Agent's telegram of 21st instant, the orders of the Government of India may, if possible, be communicated before the end of this month.

Enclosure 1 in No. 62.

Letter from Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kathiawar, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 245, dated Rajkot, the 9th April, 1900.

I have the honour to again address you on the subject of the additional loan that will be required to meet the famine requirements in this province during the current financial year, because the last five lakhs placed at my disposal by the Government of India is becoming rapidly exhausted, and an additional grant on the 1st May is absolutely necessary if the people on relief are to be kept alive.

2. I venture at the same time to offer an explanation on certain remarks in the letter from the Government of India, No. 1009 I.A., dated 26th February last.

3. After submitting my first estimate in November last, I endeavoured to reduce the amount which Government would have to advance by assisting some of the larger States to borrow in the open market under an Agency guarantee. In my revised estimate of monetary requirements, I calculated that if the States mentioned in paragraph 6 of my letter No. 79 of the 1st February, succeeded in effecting loans in the open market, the requirements of the province would be reduced from 82 lakhs (plus 10 for the Nawanagar State) to 37 lakhs for the whole period of the famine, including the loan of ten lakhs to Nawanagar.

4. I am glad to be able to report that of these States, all, but the four noted in the margin, have obtained loans privately, and Dhrangadhra and Wadhwan are sanguine of succeeding in doing the same. No. 3 has not applied for funds, and No. 4 will probably obtain the funds he wants in the market. These may, I think, be safely left out of my estimate.

1. Dhrangadhra.
2. Wadhwan.
3. Rustamkhanji.
4. Bhima Walla.

5. The financial position is as under :—

Requirements in round numbers.

——	Rs.
Revised estimate of 1st February	37,00,000
Additional 3 lakhs for Nawanagar, making total of 13 lakhs for that State	3,00,000
	40,00,000
Received up to date from Government...	26,25,000
Balance needed in round numbers	14,00,000

I shall require five lakhs during each of the months of May and June, and the remainder in July.

6. The remarks of the Government of India on my estimate contained in their letter No. 1009 I.A., dated 26th February last, lead me to fear that I have not made the situation and the system of relief in this province sufficiently clear.

I may, therefore, explain that this province is divided into a large number of separate tributory estates, whose political and financial position varies from a first class State with 40 lakhs of revenue to a shareholder in a village. For the purpose of this explanation, the States may be classed into—

(*a*) Jurisdictional States, and

(*b*) Non-jurisdictional petty estates grouped into the Thana circles, who contribute towards the cost of administration of justice by Agency officers.

All these States collect their own land revenue independently of the Agency, unless, for some reason, they are under temporary Agency management.

Many of the larger States have sufficient surplus balance to meet the demands of the famine without assistance ; while the remainder of the former and those in the Tanna circles which are enumerated in the table which accompanied by letter No. 1008 of the 15th November, had not sufficient funds either to carry on the administration, to afford famine relief, or to assist their subordinate landowners and cultivators.

7. The whole province is affected by famine, but it is only for the impecunious States and petty Talukdars under Thanas that I have applied for help from Government. This explanation appears called for by a remark in the comparative statement of the percentages to population of people in receipt of relief in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Government of India above referred to. It is there stated as under :—

On the whole population ... ... 8·14

On Colonel Hunter's figure of 1,078 for thousands affected ... 20·77

My figure of 1,078,000 does not represent the number affected, but the population of the impecunious States which required monetary assistance from Government. The whole population of Kathiawar amounting to nearly 30 lakhs is affected by the famine, and the number of people in the whole of Kathiawar in receipt of relief is given on the 2nd December last as 224,000. The Government of India appear to have understood that this last figure represented the number on relief works in the impecunious States with a population of 1,078,000 and arrived at the 20·77 per cent. by a comparison of these figures, whereas the number on relief in the impecunious States in my table on the 2nd December 1899 was 74,919, giving a percentage of only 6·8 per cent. on 1,078,000, the total population of those States. On the 3rd February the number on relief works in these States to their aggregate population bore the proportion of 6·3 per cent., not 17. The percentage in these States in the last returns for the week ending 25th March was 8 per cent.

It is no doubt this misunderstanding that has led the Government of India to conclude that our famine relief system is too attractive and is being administered on an extravagant scale.

8. A comparison with the numbers in receipt of relief in the Deccan in 1896-97 will convince Government that our percentage in these borrowing States is remarkably low, for the percentage in Sholapur in April, a little later than our last return, was 17·7 per cent. When it is considered (*a*) that Kathiawar is facing a famine after two seasons of insufficient rain ; (*b*) that in the Deccan there was enough rain to produce fodder, though no grain, whereas in many parts of Kathiawar, the rain was insufficient to sow the land even ; (*c*) that the Native States calculate to a rupee what the cultivator can pay and levy in ordinary years a much heavier assessment than in British territory, making it almost impossible for the peasantry to lay by for famine years, and lastly (*d*) that the cultivator in Kathiawar is a tenant-at-will and has no right of occupancy on which he can raise money, the small number on relief is

calculated rather to arouse fears that we are keeping people off the works by exacting too heavy a task. In fact, the small number on the works, considering the severity of the famine, obliges me to require my assistants to move constantly about the districts to see that all the people who require relief get it, and that the relief workers do not get emaciated.

9. To show that famine relief is being administered in this province on the most economical manner, I may refer to what has been noticed by the Chief Secretary to Government in paragraph 7 of his memorandum of inspection of famine works, *viz.* (*a*) that the task exacted here is in some cases 60 per cent. heavier than that fixed in the Famine Relief Code, and (*b*) that there is no limit to the fining for short work. This fining reached for a week or two in some gangs more than 70 per cent. of the wage, when the people for a time idled under the impression that they would receive a minimum wage irrespective of the amount of work they did.

10. In order to check idling still more, Mr. Morison, the Special Famine Officer, introduced the piece work system on all works, where the condition of the people and other circumstances permitted it. Each of my assistants, besides the Special Famine Officer, visits the famine works and takes tests of the work done by a few gangs to see that fines are imposed wherever the task is not done.

11. In regard to the assistance the borrowing States require for administrative purposes, and for advances to their subordinate landholders and cultivators, the most careful scrutiny is exercised over their estimates as already reported ; detailed figures are required in support of each head of estimate and the Chiefs are required to dispose of all realisable property.

12. I hope the Government of India will be satisfied from this explanation that every effort is being made to keep down the famine expenses in the States which are being assisted by Government and sanction the further loan of 14 lakhs which is absolutely the lowest sum with which I can hope to keep the people alive, and I hope Government will view with satisfaction that the measures I have taken have resulted in reducing the call on Government from 92 lakhs to 40.

Enclosure 2 to No. 62.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Political Agent, Kathiawar, Rajkot, No. 41 *M., dated the* 20*th April*, 1900.

Following telegram received from India :—Begins. 1605 I.A. My telegram 1499 L.A., April 6th. Government of India have now decided that the States cannot be permitted to borrow in England, but Government of India are prepared to permit them to borrow in Indian market sums absolutely required under a Government guarantee, the basis of which would be that, if any State failed to make the payments required under the terms of the loan, the Government of India would assume responsibility for these payments and might at the same time take the State under management. Please report what States the Governor in Council would permit to borrow on the above basis, what sums each such State would require and when the funds would be needed. In furnishing these estimates, please bear in mind instructions issued in my letter 1519 I.A., April 7th, and orders as to suspension of tribute, &c., conveyed in my telegram 1 C., March 3rd. Ends.

Please wire immediately what reduction can be made by arrangements now sanctioned in your estimate of 14 lakhs required from Government : see your letter 245 of 9th April and report by post on above telegram from Government of India.

Enclosure 3 in No. 62.

Telegram from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, Rajkot, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 118, *dated the 21st April,* 1900.

Your wire 41 M. India orders will not reduce my estimate, 14 lakhs. On contrary, English market being closed if Dhrangadhra, Wadhwan, fail to obtain local loans my estimate will be doubled. High rate interest of local loans forced States to English market. Endeavours, however, will be made to find local accommodation. I have already under authority Government wire 132 P., 31st August, guaranteed local loans to 60 Talukdars aggregating over 5 lakhs in form given my wire, 73, 3rd March. Five lakhs on 1st proximo absolutely indispensable, as 14 lakhs is exclusive of those States borrowing in market.

No. 63.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 68 *M., dated the 2nd May,* 1900.

Your telegram 1605 I.A. of the 14th April. Before receipt of above orders, Bhavnagar State had arranged loan of 30 lakhs in India on condition of guarantee to following effect from Political Agent, Kathiawar, being sanctioned: *viz.*, on behalf of Government, Political Agent guarantees whole amount loan with interest shall be paid by Bhavnagar. In default Political Agent will compel compliance by diplomatic action, and will render help to mortgagees who will not be compelled to have recourse to law courts. Bombay Government hope Government of India will approve above guarantee in this case. Thirty lakhs required entirely for famine and administration.

No. 64.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 1976 *I.A., dated the 5th May,* 1900.

Your letter 49 M., April 23rd. Immediate loan of five lakhs for Native States and Thanas in Kathiawar sanctioned. Please explain why remaining nine lakhs required cannot be raised in open market—*see* my telegram 1605 I.A., April 14th.

No. 65.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 77 *M., dated the 5th May,* 1900.

Your telegram 1605 I.A., of 14th April. Governor in Council proposes to permit following States to borrow under Government guarantee, *viz.*, Cambay 3 lakhs, Akalkot one and half lakhs ; in both cases money required immediately for famine relief and administrative charges. As regards Akalkot, please see my letter 2450 of 30th March, 1900. Please wire whether Government of India approve.

No. 66.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 2004 *I.A., dated the 7th May,* 1900.

Your telegram 77 M., May 5th. No objection to Cambay borrowing three lakhs and Akalkot one and-a-half lakhs under Government guarantee.

No. 67.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 2045 *I.A., dated the 9th May,* 1900.

Your telegram 68 M., May 2nd. Bhavnagar loan. No objection. In future similar cases, please follow form of guarantee indicated in my telegram 1605 I.A., April 14th.

No. 68.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla. No. 95 *M., dated the 14th May,* 1900.

Please see last sentence* of Mr. Monteath's letter 860 of 13th February, 1900, regarding famine loans in Kathiawar. When States which have received temporary loans from Government effect guaranteed loans in open market and repay amounts of temporary loans, Government presume there is no objection to Political Agent utilising the refunded amount for loans to other States, whether the original grant was made by the Government of India before or after 1st April, 1900.

No. 69.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 2200 *I.A., dated the 20th May,* 1900.

Your telegram 95 M., May 14th. The proposal to utilise directly amounts received in repayment of loans for purpose of making new loans is inadmissible. If additional loans are absolutely necessary and cannot be arranged for in Indian market, specific demands should be made on the Government of India.

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* Inquiring with reference to Government of India's telegram No. 3844 I.-A., of 22nd December, 1899 (*see* page 187 of Command Paper No. 209, presented in 1900) "whether inter-statal loans are to be permitted."

No. 70.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3,943, dated Bombay Castle, 30th May, 1900.

With reference to your telegrams marginally noted, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter No. 346, dated the 23rd May, 1900,* from the Political Agent Kathiawar, showing how the grants already made by the Government of India for loans to Native States in Kathiawar have been utilised up to date.

No. 1,976-I.A., dated 5th May, 1900.
No. 2,200-I.A., dated 20th May, 1900.

2. Of a total of Rs. 30,06,069-12-11 actually lent to States, Colonel Hunter has already recovered Rs. 2,98,750-4-0 and expects to recover within the next two months Rs. 18,74,797-8-0 more, or Rs. 21,73,547-12-0 in all. These recoveries are being made by inducing States with good credit, which have already borrowed from Government, to raise loans in the open market, thus enabling them both to repay the Government loan at once and carry on their relief works to the end without further assistance from Government. The Governor in Council has also sanctioned loans aggregating over 8 lakhs of rupees from the Kathiawar Agency Local Funds.

3. There are, however, a number of petty estates in the Thana Circles, and a few small States, which cannot borrow in the open market. As shown in Statement D accompanying the Political Agent's letter, Rs. 7,75,292 have been already lent by Government to these States and estates, and a further sum of 14 lakhs will be required before the end of the famine. The Political Agent has still in hand one lakh of the amount sanctioned by the Government of India, and asks for 13 lakhs more (five in June, five in July, and three in August), explaining that the recoveries expected to be made during the next two months will provide more than this amount, and that therefore there will be no fresh drain on Government.

4. I am directed to say that the Governor in Council considers that everything that is possible has been done to reduce the demand for further Government loans to a minimum, and trusts that the Government of India will now sanction the allotment asked for.

No. 71.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 4,128, dated the 6th June, 1900.

Please see my letter 3,943, dated 30th May, 1900. Political Agent, Kathiawar, wires on first:—*Begins.* Government loan nearly exhausted. Please place five lakhs at my disposal for June. Funds required for relief works in Thanas, advances for seed and bullocks in Thanas and States which cannot borrow in market. *Ends.*

No. 72.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 2,523 I.A., dated the 9th June, 1900.

Your letter 3,943, May 30th, and telegram 4,128, June 6th. Orders are issuing for five lakhs to be placed at disposal of Political Agent, Kathiawar, for

* Not printed.

advances to petty States and estates in Thana Circles. The further eight lakhs asked for will be given if this is absolutely necessary, but Hunter should report by end of this month whether the estimate is capable of reduction.

No. 73.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 169 *P., dated the* 12*th June*, 1900.

Bombay Government has just received reports from Political Superintendent, Palanpur, stating that in order to carry on famine relief operations in Palanpur State till middle July further loan to State of one lakh is necessary, and to carry on operations in Thana Circles and petty estates of Agency till beginning July further advance of Rs. 75,000 is necessary. Relief operations in both Palanpur State and petty States and Thana Circles of Agency have been throughout financed by Government loans, and Bombay Government recommend that the further sum asked for, aggregating Rs. 1,75,000, be now made available. As funds are urgently needed, Governor in Council makes this recommendation by telegram, and solicits immediate orders. But letter with Political Superintendent's reports will follow.

No. 74.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 2652 *I.-A., dated the* 19*th June*, 1900.

Your telegram 169 P., June 12th. Immediate further advance of Rs. 1,75,000 for famine operations in Palanpur and Thana Circles and petty estates in that Agency is sanctioned. Please refer to your telegram No. 64, dated 30th April. Had the 10 lakhs there referred to been actually distributed by that date, or does telegram merely mean that Local Government regarded that sum as hypothecated for States outside Kathiawar ? If the former, please state distribution. If the latter, presumably the sum now sanctioned will come from the 10 lakhs. Please support any future demands with details, as in cases of Kathiawar States, and give basis of calculation.

No. 75.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 223 *P., dated the* 24*th June*, 1900.

Your telegram 2652 I.-A of 19th June. 9½ lakhs had been actually assigned for distribution to specified States by 12th April, 1900, leaving balance of ½ lakh at disposal of Commissioner, Northern Division, for urgent unforeseen demands. This balance has since been similarly assigned. Distribution list is being sent by post.

No. 76.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 228 *P., dated Bombay, the* 25*th June*, 1900.

In continuation of my telegram No. 223 P., dated the 24th instant, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India,

a statement showing how the sum of 10 lakhs sanctioned in the Foreign Department letter No. 1009 I.-A., dated the 26th February, 1900, for loans to the Native States in this Presidency other than the States in Kathiawar for the current financial year has been distributed.

Statement.

Agency.	States.	Sums distributed.
		Rs.
Kholapur and S. M. Country ...	Jath	1,00,000
Rewa Kantha	Rajpipla	1,50,000
Ditto	Balasinor	70,000
Mahi Kantha	Small States, Talukas and Thana Circles in the Mahi Kantha Agency—	
	Rs.	
	Ilol 2,320	
	Pethapur 1,000	
	Ghdasar... 5,230	
	Katosan (State) 4,710	
	Amliyara 5,200	
	Ramas 280	
	Gabat 400	
	Wasna 3,270	
	Magodi 1,260	
	Katosan (Thana) 5,830	
	Gadhwada 6,000	
	Sabar Kantha 3,000	
	Vatrak Kantha... 16,500	
	Bavisi 20,000	
	Total ...	75,000
Ditto	Further allotment to Mahi Kantha ...	30,000
Palanpur	Palanpur State	2,00,000
Ditto	Thana Circles in Palanpur Superintendency	1,00,000
Ditto	Tharad and Vav	25,000
Ditto	Radhanpur State...	1,50,000
Surat	Dharampur	1,00,000
	Total	10,00,000

(Sd.) W. T. MORISON

No. 77.

Letter from W. T. Morisom, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4537, *dated Bombay Castle,* 19*th June* 1900.

I am directed to forward, in continuation of my telegram No. 169 P., dated the 12th instant, copies of the marginally-noted letters* from the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, asking for further Government loans to enable him to continue the famine relief operations in the Palanpur State and the Thana Circles and petty States respectively.

1. No. 4893, dated the 30th May, 1900, with Commissioner, N. D's., forwarding memorandum No. 6474, dated the 8th June, 1900.

2. No. 4895, dated the 30th May, 1900, with Commissioner, N. D's., forwarding memorandum No 6473, dated the 8th June, 1900.

2. As regards the Palanpur State, the Political Superintendent reports that His Highness the Divan is unwilling to ask for more than Rs. 92,139 (bringing the total loan from Government up to 6 lakhs) at present. As this amount is stated to be sufficient to carry on relief operations till the middle of July, the Governor in Council has thought it advisable to ask the Government of India for this sum only (one lakh in round figures) for the present, and is directing the Political Superintendent to report again early in July.

3. Similarly for the Thana Circles and petty States a further sum of Rs. 75,000 is reported to be sufficient to carry on operations till the beginning of July, and the Governor in Council proposes to again consider the position then, so as to keep the requests for loans, so far as possible, within actual requirements.

No. 78.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 263 *P., dated the* 3*rd July,* 1900.

Please see my letter No. 4537 of 19th ultimo, and paragraph 7 of letter 4895 of 30th May, 1900, from Political Superintendent, Palanpur. No rain is yet reported to have fallen in Palanpur. and number on relief continues high. Bombay Government recommend further immediate provision of one lakh for relief operations in Thana Circles and petty estates of Palanpur Agency. This will suffice for July and August if present number on relief continues, and longer if reduction of number takes place. Bombay Government think Mr. Fitzgerald's estimate is trustworthy.

No. 79.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 2949 *I.A., dated the 7th July,* 1900.

Your telegram 263 P,, July 3rd. Further immediate loan of one lakh for relief operations in Thana Circles and petty estates of Palanpur Agency is sanctioned.

* Not printed.

No. 80.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 304-P., dated the 12th July, 1900.

Please see my letter, 4537, of 19th ultimo. Dewan of Palanpur has now applied urgently for further loan from Government of two lakhs for relief operations and half-a-lakh for taccavi. For details of estimates, please see Political Superintendent's letter, 4893, of 30th May, 1900. Following is present situation : Funds in hand will last only few days longer. Average daily number on relief last week was 45,019. No rain fallen yet in Palanpur and numbers on relief tend to rise. Calculating at rate of Rs. 90 per thousand units relieved, cost of relieving present number will be one lakh twenty thousand per mensem. Bombay Government, therefore, consider loan of two lakhs asked for is absolutely necessary, and also strongly recommend half-lakh for taccavi—total $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Early orders solicited by wire.

No. 81.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 3124 I.A., dated the 18th July, 1900.

Your telegram 304-P., July 12th. Further immediate famine loan of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for Palanpur State sanctioned. I understand State is unable to borrow in open market. To enable Government of India to review ways and means estimate, please furnish early a complete statement showing in separate columns against each State all Government loans actually made during last and current financial years, whether temporary or otherwise ; also remaining demands, if any, and the actual and probable recoveries during current financial year only.

No. 82.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 346 P., dated Bombay, the 19th July, 1900.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a Memorandum, dated the 9th instant, from the Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, explaining the present position of famine relief operations in that Agency, and the necessity which exists for further advances from Government at an early date, if relief works are to be continued.

2. As the recent rains may, it is hoped, have improved the position somewhat, the following telegram has been sent to the Political Agent :—

> " Your letter 4852 F. of 10th instant. Please wire urgent on 25th instant, whether recent rains have altered position and how much further loan you desire for Idar, other States and Thanas, respectively."

The Bombay Government, I am to say, propose, on receipt of the Political Agent's reply to this telegram, to communicate to the Government of India by telegram their recommendations for further advances to the States and Thanas of the Agency. The detailed report of the Political Agent is now sent in advance, in order that the Government of India may be in possession of full information for dealing immediately with those recommendations.

3. I am to add, with reference to paragraphs 18 and 22 of the Political Agent's Memorandum, that, though the security offered in many cases is bad, and though in some cases there appear no chance of even recovering the money

lent, the Governor in Council presumes that advances found to be absolutely necessary to prevent deaths from starvation will continue to be made by Government.

Enclosure in No. 82.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, dated Sadra, the 9th July, 1900.

Rain has not fallen yet ; there are no local signs of a coming monsoon, and the meteorological reports are not hopeful. Under these circumstances, it is necessary to consider the condition of the Mahi Kantha and its people.

2. The soil of the Mahi Kantha is largely a sandy loam and normally contains water comparatively near the surface, the country is well wooded and the people derive a substantial portion of their revenue from fruit trees such as mango and mhowra. The province is watered by eight rivers which run from north-east to south-west.

3. Owing to the drought which has now lasted since October, 1898, the water in the soil has greatly diminished, the springs are giving out and the wells are at a very low level ; in a short time it may be anticipated that a goodly proportion will run dry.

4. With the exception of the Hathmati and the Sabarmati below the junction, the rivers have ceased to run ; there are pools and small stretches where water more or less stagnant is still to be found, but the connected flow of the rivers has ceased.

5. An enormous number of trees have been cut down or barked, the sale of the wood having formed the sole means of support of a large number of people since the commencement of the scarcity in July, 1899. The fruit trees have been mutilated and stripped of their leaves as fast as they sprouted to afford food for cattle that have largely subsisted on this alone. This mutilation added to the exhaustion of the moisture in the soil is causing the remaining trees to wither and die. Copious rain soon would save many, a continuance of the drought will have the effect of denuding the country side and turning it into an arid waste.

6. The exhaustion of the water-supply is the most serious consideration for the present, as it will inevitably involve the abandonment of villages and the depopulation of tracts of country.

7. The condition of the people has during the last month much deteriorated. They have come to the end of their resources, and they have lost heart. Certain sources of livelihood exploited to the end now yield nothing or very little, *e.g.*, the cultivation of the river-beds : this gave employment and food to many, and the Kadab stalks sold well in the bazaar to those who still had cattle to keep alive ; a small flood came down the rivers in May washing away the existing crops, none have been sown since ; the same rain that caused the floods caused the soil wherever there was a depression to bring forth small shoots of grass, the collection of this for sale as fodder afforded a livelihood to numbers of women and children from every village ; this temporary alleviation has come to an end, and there is little or no grass to be found ; the cutting down and sale of trees has kept numbers alive and away from relief works, but the market is swamped and the demand almost died out ; head loads that formerly fetched 2 annas are now sold for 6 pies, and the quantity of food obtainable is reduced in the same proportion. Under these and similar circumstances, the condition of the people has much deteriorated, larger numbers are daily coming on relief works and to poor-houses, and they are more emaciated than they ever were before.

8. The loss of cattle at the commencement of the famine was great, it is not possible yet to gauge the proportion that have died, but it is probably two-thirds of the whole. The remainder have been kept alive on the leaves of

trees, prickly-pear, and in the jungle parts on bamboos, and it was hoped that they would be saved by an early monsoon; these are now dying off rapidly as the food-supply is ended, and Kadab that could be purchased three weeks ago for Rs. 15 per 1,000 lbs. is now not obtainable for Rs. 30. Where irrigation has been carried on throughout the year, there are certain stores of Kadab, but in view of the threatening second year of drought, the owners will not part, as they say that their wells will not stand the strain of further irrigation.

9. The population of the Mahi Kantha is, roughly speaking, about 600,000; of this number approximately 300,000 are Idar subjects, 110,000 under Thana circles, and 190,000 the subjects of the remaining 27 jurisdictional Native States. As the whole province is equally affected, the people poor and without credit and a large majority of Bhils and Thakardas, it would be no exaggeration to say that 15 per cent. or 90,000 require relief. Idar, however, is helping only 13,000 or 2·17 per cent. and the Thanas 8,700 or 8 per cent. As regards Thana circles the balance have hitherto supported themselves by wood cutting and cultivating river-beds, and many have gone away not to return. As regards Idar large numbers are being supported elsewhere, principally on British works and poor-houses.

10. The total number in receipt of relief on 23rd of June was 28,382, since then the numbers have increased, and if the rain holds off it cannot be doubted that a very large increase may be expected for reasons already given. It remains, therefore, to consider what means are available for affording the necessary relief.

11. At the commencement of the famine it was reported to Government that the Chiefs and Talukdars of the Mahi Kantha had no money and no credit, and that any system of relief, however meagre, could only be carried out with money lent by Government.

12. Government were pleased to grant a loan of Rs. 2,00,000 to Idar, and a further sum of Rs. 2,00,000 (in three items of Rs. 95,000, Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 30,000) to the Political Agent for distribution among the Thana circles and the jurisdictional Talukdars who wished to borrow on the Government terms.

13. Of this last sum, Rs. 30,000 is still unallotted, but the Political Agent has ear-marked it for the use of the Thana circles, as the States that have taken loans have reached the limit at which they can reasonably expect to repay within ten years.

14. The following statement shows the allotment of Rs. 1,70,000, the amounts already drawn and the balance available :—

States and Thanas.	Amount Allotted.	Amount Paid.	Balance.
	Rs.	*Rs. a. p.*	*Rs. a. p.*
Pethapur	2,000	2,000 0 0	—
Ghodasar	9,500	3,000 0 0	6,500 0 0
Katosan	7,300	3,564 0 0	3,736 0 0
Ilol	4,250	4,250 0 0	—
Amliara	7,720	2,000 0 0	5,720 0 0
Wasna...	6,000	4,657 5 8	1,342 10 4
Magodi	2,400	500 0 0	1,900 0 0
Ramas...	500	500 0 0	—
Gabat	900	900 0 0	—
Pol	2,000	2,000 0 0	—

States and Thanas.	Amount Allotted.	Amount Paid.	Balance.
	Rs.	*Rs. a. p.*	*Rs. a. p.*
Gadhawada	20,530	17,710 3 0	2,819 13 0
Katosan Thana	18,900	6,337 9 3	12,562 6 9
Bavisi	56,000	46,322 15 0	9,677 1 0
Sabar Kantha	13,000	7,680 0 0	5,320 0 0
Vatrak Kantha	19,000	13,000 0 0	6,000 0 0
Total	1,70,000	1,14,422 0 11	55,577 15 1

From this it will be seen that Pethapur, Ilol, Ramas, Gabat and Pol have come to an end of their money, and therefore their works and poor-houses must be closed, as they have no other means ; Wasna can hold out to the end of July and the remainder have for the present sufficient funds in hand.

15. As regards the Thana circles, the sum allotted was Rs. 1,27,430 ; of this there was expended up to end of June Rs. 91,050, leaving a balance of Rs. 36,380 ; this sum, together with the Rs. 30,000 still in hand, gives a total of Rs. 66,380, and, if the number in receipt of relief (8,700) *does not increase*, it will be possible to carry on till the end of August.

16. The case of Idar is not so good ; of the Rs. 2,00,000 there had been spent up to end of June Rs. 64,400, and as there present monthly expenditure is Rs. 46,000, they can carry on till the middle of August.

17. But it has already been stated that there is every probability of the numbers seeking relief greatly increasing if the monsoon continues to hold off, and, therefore, it is possible that the end of July will see us at the end of our resources.

18. The main question for decision now is whether Government are prepared to make further advances to enable the Chiefs, Talukdars and Thanas of the Mahi Kantha to provide the means of keeping the people alive. On the one hand, the stoppage of relief when funds are at an end will involve the casting out some 30,000 people to die, and the denial of all relief to the starving for the future ; on the other, the grant of further loans by Government is to place a burden on the States and Talukas that it will be utterly impossible for them to pay off in 10 years or in some cases at all.

19. Idar has a net revenue of under 4 lakhs, and could bear, with difficulty, to effect a further loan of Rs. 1,00,000 to be paid off in 20 years.

20. The position of the Thana circles is given below, and it will be seen that three have liabilities exceeding a year's gross income. None of these Thanas, except Katosan, have appreciable surpluses even in a good year, and now they are working without an income, so that the repayment of the existing loan will even be a matter of many years :—

Thanas.	Gross Revenue.	Loans Received.	Present Monthly Expenditure.
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
Bavisi	46,033	56,000	10,092
Gadhawada	19,715	20,530	5,973
Sabar Kantha	39,277	13,000	1,473
Vatrak Kantha	17,548	19,000	4,857
Katosan	41,894	18,900	4,368

Vatrak Kantha is not a Thana proper ; it consists principally of the estates of Jher and Nirmali owned by the Gaekawad and the Mia of Mandwa, to whom the surplus revenue is paid after deduction of all costs of administration.

21. There is no obligation on Government to go on lending money to these estates that it may be most difficult to recover, and the Gaekawad on being addressed refused any assistance ; there are 1,485 on relief now, and it is quite possible that failing early rain, the numbers may increase to 6,000.

22. This then is the condition of affairs, and it is necessary that the Political Agent should be informed as early as possible whether Government are disposed to offer any further assistance or not, the security is bad ; but without a further loan the works and poor-houses will have to be closed and the people turned out to starve.

23. It has been said that the credit of the Talukdars is bad, the few marginally noted have with difficulty raised loans with an Agency guarantee ; nearly all the rest, however, have endeavoured and failed.

Varsoda.	Dabha.	
Rapal.	Tejpura.	
Dedhrota.	Hapa.	

24. Finally, it seems probable that many Talukdars who have not asked Government for a loan will be driven to do so if there is a continued failure of rain, as they have, for the most part, quite come to the end of their resources.

No. 83.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 399 P., dated the 1st August, 1900.

Please see my letter 346 P., July 19th. Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, reports rain has fallen and lands being brought under cultivation, but no decrease in numbers on relief yet. He estimates that Idar will require further loan of Rs. 1,20,000, and Petty States and Thanas Rs. 80,000 to carry on relief operations till October, and asks, besides, for Rs. 50,000 for taccavi advances in petty States and Thanas. Bombay Government recommended further loan of one lakh to Idar and one lakh to petty States and Thanas, total two lakhs, Present balances will last till 15th August only.

No. 84.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 3488 *I.A., dated the 7th August,* 1900.

Your telegram 399 P., August 1st. Further loan not exceeding one lakh for petty States and Thanas in Mahi Kantha is sanctioned, but please give strict caution to Political Agent to advance only such sums as may from time to time be actually necessary. For Idar a further loan of half-a-lakh is sanctioned. According to paragraph 16, Political Agent's memorandum, out of two-lakh loan Idar had spent up to the end of June Rs. 64,400, and monthly expenditure of State is Rs. 46,000. Balance should, therefore, enable relief operations to be continued till end of September. Again, your letter 5616, July 24th, reported that Idar had drawn up to Rs. 1,26,590 out of two lakhs, but precise date was not given. Balance would apparently carry State at same rate up to some time in September. Please explain these variations. Question of conditions of repayment may wait till present pressure is over.

No. 85.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 451 *P., dated the* 15*th August,* 1900.

Bombay Government presume all Government loans to Native States for famine expenditure are intended to be at 4 per cent. interest. Kindly wire if this is correct.

No. 86.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 3669 *I.A., dated the* 17*th August,* 1900.

Your telegram 451 P., August 15th. All Government famine loans will bear 4 per cent. interest—see enclosure in my letter 3036 I.-A., 19th October, 1899.*

No. 87.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 457 *P., dated the* 16*th August,* 1900.

Please see statement accompanying my letter 5949, August 7th. Political Agent, Kathiawar, wires that balance at his disposal for loans is nearly exhausted, and requests further allotment of three lakhs for loans to petty Talukdars under Thanas according to statement. Bombay Government consider further allotments asked for absolutely necessary, and request favour of early orders.

No. 88.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 3701 *I.-A., dated the* 19*th August,* 1900.

Your telegram 457 P., August 16th.

Further allotment of three lakhs for loans to petty Talukdars and Thanas in Kathiawar is sanctioned.

No. 89.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5883, *dated Bombay, the* 3*rd August,* 1900.

With reference to Captain Daly's letter No. 460 I.-A., dated the 24th January, 1900,† I am directed to submit, for the Government of India's approval, the proposal contained in the appended copy of a letter from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 563, dated the 26th July, 1900, to the effect

* See pages 172 and 221 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.

† See page 187 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.

that no formal agreements in connection with loans granted by Government for famine expenditure should be taken

(*a*) from those States which are repaying within the current financial year temporary loans advanced to them ; and

(*b*) from the numerous petty Talukdars in Thana Circles, the estates of most of whom have been placed under Agency attachment for the recovery of the long loans given to them.

The Governor in Council thinks that, with the undisputed evidence of the loans which the Government records afford, it is unnecessary to insist on the execution of formal agreements in the above cases.

2. I am also to ask that the Bombay Government may be given discretion to dispense with agreements on similar grounds in other Agencies of the Presidency.

Enclosure in No. 89.

Letter from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 563, *dated the 26th July*, 1900.

With reference to Government resolution No. 1600 of 26th February last, I have the honour to refer you to my letter No. 554 of 21st instant and the statements which accompanied it. It will be seen that temporary loans made to States therein named amount to Rs. 22,10,547-12-0, of which sums of the aggregate amount of Rs. 10,91,670-4-0 have been recovered, and the balance of Rs. 11,18,877-8-0 will, it is expected, be recovered during the current financial year from private loans which the States concerned are negotiating. Consequently there is, in my opinion, no need to obtain formal agreements from them.

2. The estimated aggregate of long loans is Rs. 16,76,878-8-0, of which Rs. 10,82,987-12-11 had been paid up to 20th instant, and Rs. 10,548-12-5 have been paid since then, making a total expenditure of Rs. 10,93,536-9-4. The long loans have been made to the talukas under Agency management and Thana Circles and to the Bajana State, which is, however, endeavouring to borrow in the market to repay the loan. It is impossible to say, at present, the exact amount that will be lent to each of the numerous petty Talukdars, Bhagdars, &c., under Thana Circles up to the end of the famine. There does not appear to be any need to obtain formal agreements from these numerous Talukdars, Bhagdars, &c., for the loans made to them, as the estates of most of them have been taken under Agency attachment for the recovery of these loans.

An agreement will, of course, be taken from the Bajana State hereafter, if it does not succeed in negotiating a loan in the market to repay the Government advances.

No. 90.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 3770 *I.A., dated Simla, the 24th August*, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5883, dated the 3rd August, 1900, suggesting that formal agreements may be dispensed with in respect to famine loans granted to certain States and Talukdars.

2. Subject to the proviso that the terms of each loan are clearly recorded in a single document and are distinctly explained to the grantee, who, as well as

the Government of India, should receive a copy of this document, the Government of India are quite content to leave the details of the arrangements to the Government of Bombay.

No. 91.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 548 *P., dated Bombay, the* 17*th September*, 1900.

No. 5820 F., dated the 23rd August, 1900.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter* from the Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, with an endorsement by the Commissioner, Northern Division, reporting the circumstances in which 13 loans to petty Talukdars of the Mahi Kantha for famine expenses, aggregating Rs. 35,803-6-0, have been guaranteed by the Political Agent on behalf of Government without obtaining previous sanction. Of the 13 loans, 12 aggregating Rs. 32,926 bear interest at rates over 5 per cent.

2. I am to say that the Governor in Council would recommend, if funds are available, the allotment of a sum of Rs. 32,926 to enable the Political Agent to immediately pay off these 12 loans, or as many of them as he can and so convert them into Government loans.

3. I am at the same time to request attention to paragraph 9 of the Political Agent's letter, and to ask that a further sum of Rs. 10,000 may be placed at the disposal of the Bombay Government for the purpose of Government loans to other petty Talukdars and Bhagdars of the Mahi Kantha.

4. As the Political Agent reports that the money is required immediately for the subsistence of the borrowers, I am to request that, if there is no objection, the orders of the Government of India may be communicated by telegram.

No. 92.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 4285 *I.A., dated the* 28*th September*, 1900.

Your letter 548-P., September 17th. An allotment of Rs. 32,926 is sanctioned for conversion of the 12 private loans bearing interest at more than 5 per cent. into Government loans. You are also authorised to make advances up to Rs. 10,000, if necessary, to other Talukdars of Mahi Kantha.

No. 93.

Telegram from Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, No. 1443, *dated the* 21*st February*, 1901.

Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, has made urgent request for further famine loan of three and a half lakhs to Idar. Government have already advanced two and a half lakhs, *vide* correspondence ending with my letter 6429, August 27th.* Darbar subsequently delayed asking for further loan, because they were trying to borrow locally, but this having failed application is made to Government. Colonel Ferris reports that entire administration of State is paralysed by want of

* Not printed.

funds. Most of State servants are in arrears of pay for more than a year, and complaints have been received from Ahmedabad District Officers that Idar Police are committing or conniving at robberies on the frontier, because they receive no pay. Bombay Government were considering proposals for retrenchment of State expenditure which they had called for before recommending request for loan. Meanwhile sudden death of Maharaja has altered position, and makes it probable that Government will have to take over direct administration of State. Pending submission of full report, Governor in Council would ask for immediate sanction to further famine loan of one lakh as instalment of larger loan, the request for which will be supported by full details of present position of State. Early orders are solicited.

No. 94.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 932 I.A., dated the 27th February, 1901.

Your telegram, 1443, February 21st. Immediate further loan of one lakh is sanctioned for Idar.

No. 95.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 801, dated Bombay Castle, the 31st January, 1901.

I am directed to forward herewith, for the orders of the Government of India, a request from the Daphlapur State (one of the Satara jagirs), supported by the Political Agent, Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country, for a loan of Rs. 15,000 for famine relief and general administration expenses.

Political Agent's letter No. 44, dated the 24th January, 1901.
Karbhari's letter No. 382, dated the 28th December, 1900.

2. The State, which adjoins Jath, suffered severely from famine in 1899–1900, and at one time applied for a loan of Rs. 10,000 ; but, as it was afterwards found possible to collect a larger portion of the land revenue than at first anticipated, the request for a loan was withdrawn. This year the famine is almost as severe as last, and the State cannot expect to collect more than half the ordinary land revenue, besides having to incur considerable expenditure in famine relief and assistance to cultivators.

3. For information as to the financial condition of the State, I am to refer to the annual report forwarded with my letter No. 8740, dated the 8th December, 1900. The Governor in Council considers that the Rs. 2,000, which the State Karbhari proposes to repay to Jath for road construction (paragraph 3 of the Karbhari's letter), should not be provided by Government, and recommends that a loan of Rs. 12,000 only be granted, to be paid to the State in three instalments of Rs. 4,000 each on such dates as the State may require them.

No. 96.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 1441 I.A., dated Simla, the 12th April, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 801, dated the 31st January, 1901, I am directed to convey sanction to the grant to the Daphlapur State of a loan of Rs. 12,000 for famine relief and general administration expenses.

2. The loan will bear interest at 4 per cent. per annum, and will be repayable by instalments which may be spread over a period of six years.

No. 97.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 126 *M., dated Bombay Castle, the* 30*th April*, 1901.

With reference to ~~my telegram No. 124 M., dated~~ the 29th instant,* asking for the sanction of a grant of Rs. 50,000 for the Rewa Kantha Agency, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter from the Political Agent, Rewa Kantha, explaining the circumstances under which the loan is required.

Enclosure in No. 97.

Letter from A. Wood, Esq., Political Agent, Rewa Kantha, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 764, *dated Camp Nandod, the* 24*th April*, 1901.

With reference to Government Memorandum No. 238 of 12th January last, and my reply No. 203 of the 30th idem, I have now the honour to request that the sum of Rs. 50,000 therein estimated as the probable requirement of this Agency for loans to Native States may be placed at my disposal as early as possible.

2. In the letter under advertence, I mentioned that Rs. 40,000 would probably be required for Balasinor and Rs. 10,000 for others, but I find, from a closer examination of the needs of Balasinor, especially in respect of taccavi in the shape of bullocks to cultivators, that it would be advisable to have the whole of the half lakh for Balasinor, in order that the State may be enabled to equip its cultivators with the means of cultivation as largely as possible.

3. It is just possible I may have to ask for further funds to be lent to other States for the purpose of similar taccavi advances to cultivators, and I may, therefore, have to address Government further on the subject in the course of a fortnight or so. In the meantime, however, I beg to solicit the favour of early sanction to the above sum of Rs. 50,000 being placed at my disposal, as the season for purchasing bullocks has arrived.

No. 98.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 134 *M., dated the* 6*th May*, 1901.

My telegram No. 947 of February 7th. Political Agent, Kathiawar, represents that loan of Rs. 60,000 urgently required by Bajana State, mainly for famine purposes and for payment of a decretal loan of Rs. 10,000 to its Bhayad, who is also in great difficulties. Bombay Government hopes to receive by telegram early sanction to grant loan of two lakhs for Kathiawar as forecasted in my above-quoted telegram.

* Not printed.

No. 99.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 1825 *I.A., dated the 9th May,* 1901.

Your letter 126 M., April 30th. The application on behalf of Balasinor cannot be sanctioned unless full information as to agricultural prospects and financial condition of the State is supplied. Your telegram 134 M., May 6th. Any loans recommended for Kathiawar, or any other Agency, must be supported by up-to-date information and figures. Compare my telegram 4110 I.A., September 17th, 1900.

No. 100.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 178 *M., dated the 12th May,* 1901.

Your telegram 1825 I.A., May 9th. Balasinor is under administration. Revenue in ordinary years about one and half lakh. Has already received loan of Rs. 85,000, first instalment of which, Rs. 12,500, will be repaid in July. Agricultural prospects entirely depend on nature of coming season which cannot be foretold, but best hope lies in enabling people to resume cultivation, for which loan of half lakh is required. From normal conditions liabilities can easily be met.

No. 101.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 1961 *I.A , dated the 17th May,* 1901.

Your telegram 178 M., May 12th. In deference to renewed application of Bombay Government, an advance of Rs. 50,000 to Balasinor, for purchase of bullocks and seed-grain, is sanctioned. Please report by letter when and in what instalments repayment may be expected.

No. 102.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 213, *dated the 20th May,* 1901.

My telegram 134 M., 6th instant. Kathiawar famine loans. Loan of two lakhs distributed as follows:—For Bajana, half lakh; for Wanod, 6,200; for Malia, 38,000; remainder for Thana Circles. Repayment assured, except in case of Malia which is deeply involved. Agricultural prospects entirely dependent on coming season, and no forecast possible at present. Demand is very lowest to meet situation, and early sanction is required.

No. 103.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 2,054 *I.A., dated the 26th May,* 1901.

Your telegram 213 M., May 20th. You have not furnished the information and figures called for in my telegram 1,825 I.A., May 9th. Please do

this by letter without delay. Meanwhile any sums actually and urgently required for famine relief works in Kathiawar, up to limit of two lakhs, may be issued on condition that the money is not utilised for other objects without further sanction.

No. 104.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, No. 3,952, *dated Bombay Castle, the* 1*st June*, 1901.

With reference to correspondence ending with your telegram No. 2,054 I.-A., dated the 26th ultimo, on the subject of famine loans for Kathiawar, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter, No. 84, dated the 29th January last,* from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, which explains the circumstances which render the further loans, for which application has been made, necessary. It was upon this letter that the estimate furnished in Mr. Morison's telegram No. 947, dated the 7th February, was based ; and there has since been no material alteration in the situation. Nor can any forecast, which would be of the least value, be made until the nature of the coming season is known. All that is possible at present is to make what provision is necessary for the most pressing needs of the petty States and Estates, for the administration of which the British Government are more or less directly responsible, and to wait upon results.

2. From the statement appended to the Political Agent's letter, it will be seen that the position of the three petty States for which loans are now required is as follows :—

State.	Ordinary income.	Ordinary surplus.	Amount already borrowed.	Loan now recommended.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bajana	88,000	28,000	90,000	50,000	1,40,000
Vanod	40,000	10,000	34,405 (from Local Funds).	6,200	40,605
Malia	95,000	10,500	2,30,916	38,000	2,68,916

In the case of Bajana the debt will only amount to five years' surplus, and provision has been made for paying Rs. 9,000 of the principal during the year. The indebtedness of Vanod to the Local Fund and to Government will be equivalent to the surplus revenue of four years. But the surplus revenue of Malia will hardly suffice to cover the interest of the debt incurred. This State is under British administration. It has the most unruly population in Kathiawar, and the cost of the administration is necessarily high. When normal conditions are restored, a determined effort must be made to effect a reduction ; but in the meanwhile means must be provided to carry on the administiation of the State.

3. The Thana Circles are under the direct administration of the Political Agent and his Assistants ; and Government are as much responsible for proper arrangements for the relief of distress as they are in the case of British territory.

4. As regards the directions contained in your telegram No. 2,054 I.A. that money is not to be utilised for other objects than famine relief works without further sanction, I am to observe that the loans are required not only for the actual relief of famine but for general administrative purposes, including

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* Not printed.

advances to cultivators and the payment of interest on loans. Unless these tracts are to be permitted to lapse into anarchy, provision must be made for the carrying on of the administration; and as these petty States have exhausted their own resources and have no credit, the necessary funds must be provided by Government. The Governor in Council, therefore, earnestly trusts that sanction may be accorded to the money being utilised in the manner indicated.

No. 105.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 2437 I.-A., dated the 25th June, 1901.

Your letter 3952 of 1st June. Sums asked for are sanctioned as follows :— Bajana, Rs. 38,000, the payment of instalment Government loan with interest being suspended for a year; Wanod, Rs. 6,200; Malia, Rs. 38,000; completion of Sudamda Tank and unforseen charges, Rs. 25,500—total one lakh seven thousand and seven hundred rupees. Further information required about superintendence charges for tank works. It is not understood why these charges should be paid to Consolidated Fund by the States.

No. 106.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 177 M., dated Bombay Castle, the 13th May, 1901.

With reference to my telegram No. 174 M. of 12th instant* I am directed to forward a copy of a letter No. 2089, dated the 6th April, from the Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, reporting the circumstances which render a further loan of Rs. 50,000 to the States and Thana Circles of the Agency necessary.

2. Both the States and the Thana Circles are absolutely without resources of their own, and are entirely dependent on the assistance of Government for the relief of distress and for advances to the cultivators, without which agricultural operations cannot be resumed during the coming season. The sums already advanced are larger in comparison with the revenues of the States, and the Governor in Council is reluctant to add to the burden already imposed upon them. But it is absolutely necessary that the Political Agent should have sufficient funds at his disposal to keep the remainder of the population in good condition, and to place them in a position to cultivate the land when the time comes.

3. As regards paragraph 8 of the Political Agent's letter, I am to say that, of the loans placed at the disposal of the Political Agent last year for the petty States and Thana Circles, Rs. 54,851 remained unexpended on the 31st March when the grants lapsed. With the addition of the loans now applied for, the indebtedness of the States and Thana Circles will be somewhat less than the amount sanctioned last year.

4. I am to add that a report will shortly be submitted showing in detail all the loans made to States in this Presidency for famine purposes.

* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 106.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 2089, *dated Camp Nagel, the 6th April,* 1901.

I have the honour to submit the report called for in paragraph 1 of Government Resolution No. 1145, dated 13th February, 1901.

2. I do not think that there exists now any necessity for relief measures, but I fear the necessity will arise after the commencement of the month of May, and will continue until the setting in of the monsoon.

3. There will not be serious distress in the Bhil country because—

(*a*) only the fittest have survived, and they have mostly irrigated maize and other crops to keep them going ;

(*b*) there has been a phenomenal crop of wild grain called "kuri," "manki," &c., which can be had for the gathering and even now litters the ground everywhere.

4. Idar will have to establish works in its eastern and southern districts. What the numbers may be that we shall have to expect to relieve, it is as yet impossible to say with accuracy ; 44 per cent. of the whole population died during and after the famine, and it is probable that, in some of the eastern districts, the mortality was over 60 per cent. ; as the survivors are mostly traders, village artisans and those who have lands, wells and bullocks, it is possible that there may be no great demand for relief work. Information under my instructions is being collected, and I believe that about Rs. 50,000 will be required for relief and taccavi. This will be included in the balance of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs asked in loan from Government in my letter No. 139-4, dated 8th January 1901.

5. All the talukas that had relief works last year, except those in the extreme north, should open them again ; this, however, they cannot do, as they have no money. All their relief operations were carried on by means of Government loans ; these have been exhausted, and I cannot recommend any further grants, as repayment would be practically impossible. The few surviving relief workers of last year must seek relief elsewhere, but in some instances they can be preserved by taccavi advances, which will be added to the Government loan of their respective talukas, and made recoverable in two years.

6. There remain the Thana Circles concerning which I have consulted my Assistants. The Assistant Political Agent reports that he believes in Bavisi the advances given as taccavi for seeds, bullocks, &c., will remove all need for further relief, and no works will be necessary ; this, of course, depends to some extent on the present promise of the mango and mahowra crops being fulfilled. Bavisi lost 29 per cent. of its population, and the Assistant Political Agent thinks that, if works are opened, there would not be more than 500 persons who would be legitimately entitled to relief. It is certain that, if works are opened, large numbers from the surrounding villages, for whom relief is not absolutely necessary, will flock to it, and the Thana funds are already too deeply pledged.

The Assistant Political Agent thinks relief works in Vatrak Kantha will be unnecessary, but we shall probably have to open a poor-house ; I imagine we shall have to do the same in Dabhoda under Bavisi. Vatrak Kantha lost 27 per cent. of its population.

7. The Personal Assistant is of opinion that works will have to be opened in the marginally noted Thana Circles for about 2½ months, *i.e.*, from 1st May till the burst of the monsoon. He has no very reliable data to go upon, and is not altogether in accord with the local Thanadars in his views, which are more liberal. The losses by the famine were :—

State.	No.	Months.	Rs.
Katosan	400	2½ at Rs. 3 each ...	3,000
Sabar Kantha ...	200	2½ „ 3 „ ...	1,500
Gadhawada	400	2½ „ 3 „ ...	3,000

State.	Per cent.
Katosan	32
Sabar Kantha	40
Gadhawada	24

The latter of the three is in my opinion the least likely to require relief works for the same reasons as apply to the Bhil country, but there should be a poor-house in each Circle.

8. All the funds at my disposal lapsed on 1st April. I think a certain amount of relief will be necessary from the commencement of May, of which the above is a fair outline. There will be great demands for taccavi for purchase of bullocks and later for purchase of sowing grain, which it will be advisable to meet. I would respectfully request that Rs. 25,000 for Thana Circles and Rs. 25,000 for Native States be placed at my disposal with which to deal with requirements, and that any advances made from these sums be added to existing loans.

Idar's requirements are not included.

No. 107.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 1945 *I.-A., dated the* 16*th May,* 1901.

Your telegram 174 M., May 12th. Loan of half lakh is sanctioned for Thana Circles and States in Mahi Kantha for specific purpose of carrying on famine relief works, and on condition that money is not to be otherwise utilised without further sanction.

No. 108.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 252 *M., dated the* 28*th May,* 1901.

Your telegram No. 1945 I.-A., sixteenth instant. Please see my letter No. 177 M., thirteenth. In circumstances reported, Governor in Council trusts sanction will be accorded to loan of half ~~lakh for Mahi Kantha being utilised~~ for advances to cultivators as well as direct famine relief. This is more economical course.

No. 109.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 2190 *I.-A., dated the 4th June,* 1901.

Your telegram 252 M., May 28th. Loan of half lakh sanctioned for Mahi Kantha may be utilised for advances to cultivators as well as direct famine relief, on understanding that this will not lead to application for additional loan.

No. 110.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 188 *M., dated the 16th May,* 1901.

My telegram, 2nd February.* Famine loans to Native States. Political Superintendent, Palanpur, now asks for one lakh for relief in Thanas which are absolutely without resources and probably insolvent. Political Superintendent must, however, have funds to preserve people from starvation. Sanction requested to advances not exceeding one lakh as required from time to time. Expenditure will be limited to actual necessities, and whole amount will not be required if season is favourable.

No. 111.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 1980 *I.-A., dated the 20th May,* 1901.

Your telegram 188 M., May 16th. Famine loan of one lakh is sanctioned for Thana Circles, Palanpur, on condition that expenditure will be limited to actual necessity.

No. 112.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 208 *M. dated the 19th May,* 1901.

Your letter No. 1438 I.-A., 12th April.* Jath State loan. The State is still suffering severely from famine, and numbers on relief tend to increase. Political Agent and Administrator asks for further loan of two and half lakhs to carry on until December. Governor in Council does not recommend this loan, pending further enquiry, result of which will be reported, but as treasury will be empty by middle of June, sanction is requested to loan of half lakh in that month.

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* Not printed.

No. 113.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshwar, No. 2039 I.-A., dated the 24th May, 1901.

Your telegram 208 M., May 19th. Jath loan. Before considering propriety of granting further loan, Government of India would prefer to await clear account of present position in State, but cash advance not exceeding half lakh may be made, if absolutely necessary, for purposes of actual famine relief.

No. 114.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to H. S. Barnes, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 351 P., dated Bombay Castle, the 30th June, 1901.

With reference to your telegram No. 2039 I.-A., dated the 24th ultimo, on the subject of the grant of a further loan of two and a half lakhs to the Jath State for famine purposes, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the marginally-noted communications* from the Administrator of the Jath State and the Political Agent, Kolhapur, in which the necessity for the fresh loan is explained.

Letter from the Administrator, Jath State, No. 463, dated the 26th April, 1901.

Letter from the Political Agent, Kolhapur and Southern Mahratta Country, No. 332, dated the 8th May, 1901.

2. As to the existence of intense famine in Jath, there never has been the smallest doubt. The State is situated in the middle of the area of precarious rainfall. It has not enjoyed a good season since 1895, and in three years there was an almost complete failure of crops. The situation, as it was in October and November, 1900, was fully explained in the correspondence which accompanied Mr. Morison's letter No. 8321, dated the 20th November, 1900, to which I am to invite a reference. Since that time, owing to the failure of the rabi crops from which much was expected, the position has only changed for the worse, and the greater part of the population of the State, which is almost entirely agricultural, is now in a state of destitution.

3. The financial position of the State was carefully considered in November, 1900, and the results were stated in the papers which accompanied Mr. Morison's letter to which reference has been made above. It will appear that in ordinary times, with good management, the revenue may be expected to yield an annual surplus of Rs. 45,000 over the expenditure. The present debt of the State is as under :—

——	Rs.
Balance of Government loan of 2¼ lakhs of 1896-97.	2,21,645
Loan of 1900	1,40,000
New Loan of 1900	2,00,000
Due to Government	5,61,645
Loan from Jamkhandi	1,00,000
	6,61,645

* Not printed.

Against this debt may be set the following assets :—

——	Rs.
Advances of taccavi recoverable	1,17,878
Arrears of revenue, &c., recoverable	1,89,553
	3,07,431

Of this amount a sum of Rs. 2,69.000 is reported to be recoverable within the next three years, the present value of which may be taken as Rs. 2,40,000. The net indebtedness of the State would thus stand at Rs. 4,21,645, which will be raised to Rs. 6,61,645, if the loan of two and a half lakhs, for which application has now been made is granted and fully taken up. It is also stated that there are State lands the sale of the occupancy rights in which should realise Rs. 1,50,000 ; but it may be doubted whether a good market could be found for the land after so many bad years. The only sum which can really be depended on for the repayment of the debt is the excess of revenue over expenditure. And as this is not likely to exceed Rs. 45,000 per annum, it is evident that the repayment of the loans must be spread over a long series of years.

4. I am to say that careful enquiries have recently been instituted under the direction of the Governor in Council into the working of the famine administration in the Jath State. The result has been to show that, while one of the principal ends of famine relief has been fully attained in that the people have been kept in good condition, there have been serious irregularities arising mainly out of the giving out of relief works to contractors, which have caused considerable waste of money. It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to trouble the Government of India at present with the details of the matter which is now engaging the attention of the Governor in Council. It may be sufficient to say that the contract system, to which the waste was for the most part due, has already been abandoned, and arrangements are being made to place the administration of the State on a more satisfactory footing, and when these arrangements are complete, the whole case will be placed before the Government of India.

5. I am to observe, however, that, whatever economies may be effected in the famine administration, the necessity for pecuniary assistance from Government will remain. Even in the most favourable circumstances relief on a large scale will have to be given for three or four months to come, and the revenue of the State is insufficient to cover ordinary expenditure. I am to request, therefore, that sanction may be accorded to a further loan of 2½ lakhs, inclusive of the half lakh already advanced ; and that the remaining two lakhs may be placed at the disposal of this Government in the following instalments :—

1st	...	5th July.	3rd	...	5th October.
2nd	...	5th September.	4th	...	5th December.

If the season should prove favourable, it is hoped that the whole amount will not be required, but it is necessary to provide for eventualities. I am also to request that sanction to the payment of July instalment may be communicated by telegram, as the State will shortly be in urgent need of money.

No. 115.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 2621 *I.-A., dated the* 9*th July*, 1901.

Your letter 351 P., June 30th. Further famine loan not exceeding two lakhs, including the half lakh already advanced, is sanctioned for Jath. Loan should be advanced in instalments as actually required.

Government await report promised in paragraph 4 of your letter, from which it appears that the additional half-lakh may not be necessary.

No. 116.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 476 P., dated the 14th September, 1901.

Political Agent, Kathiawar, reports condition of greater part of Sorath and Halar Divisions bad owing to scanty rainfall, and asks authority to guarantee loan to estate-holders for administrative and famine purposes. Bombay Government proposes to grant authority under same conditions as last year—see your telegram 3324 I.-A., dated 29th July, 1900. Loans so made to be reported to Government. Please say whether Government of India consent to this arrangement. Political Agent also reports that some States will require aid from Government, but report as to this will be furnished hereafter.

No. 117.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 3499 I.-A., dated the 17th September, 1901.

Your telegram 476 P., September 14th. Can you give even rough estimate of aggregate loans likely to be required ?

No. 118.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 488 P., dated the 20th, September, 1901.

Regret no estimate of amount of guaranteed or direct loans likely to be required by Kathiawar States is at present possible. A few heavy showers may improve situation over wide tracts, or continued absence of rain may increase area of distress. What is now required is to place Political Agent in a position to meet emergencies by guaranteeing loans to smaller impoverished States as necessity arises. No guarantee will be given except in cases where money is urgently required for administrative or famine purposes.

No. 119.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 3598 I.-A., dated the 26th September, 1901.

Your telegram 488 P., September 20th. Provided the amount required is not large, Government would prefer to lend money required for Kathiawar rather than to guarantee loans. Please support applications by clear statement of financial and agricultural condition of State concerned.

No. 120.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 504 *P., dated the* 1*st October*, 1901.

Loans in Kathiawar. Political Agent reports seventeen lakhs will be required before 1st April, and seventeen and half lakhs during 1902–1903. Estimate is based on supposition that there will be no more rain and no improvement in present conditions, and represents maximum amount likely to be required. Detailed statements will follow: but this information is given to enable Government of India to decide whether to advance money required or to guarantee loans, as to which early intimation is requested.

No. 121.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Poona, No. 3795 *I.-A., dated the* 11*th October*, 1901.

Your telegram 504 P., October 1st. Government of India are prepared to grant famine loans up to limit of 17 lakhs, if necessary, before 1st April, 1902, but it must of course be understood that no loans are actually to be issued without specific sanction of Government of India to individual applications. Demand for coming financial year should be entered in Ways and Means Estimate, and Government will endeavour to provide the money.

No. 122.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 548 *M., dated Bombay Castle, the* 26*th October*, 1901.

With reference to your telegram No. 3795 I.-A., dated the 11th October, 1901, on the subject of famine loans in Kathiawar, I am directed to forward, for the consideration of the Government of India, a letter, No. 850, dated the 16th October, 1901, from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, and the accompanying statement, which shows in detail the present financial condition of the States and Talukas which require assistance, and the amount of the loans which will probably be required in each case during the current year and in 1902–03.

2. As the loans will not be advanced all at once, but in instalments as occasion may arise, I am to suggest that the entries in column 22 of the statement may be accepted as the individual applications which the Government of India require should be submitted for their sanction before any loans are actually issued. The immediate advance of whole amounts estimated to be required would not tend to economy, and references to the Government of India for sanction to the disbursement of each and every instalment would involve much delay and inconvenience.

3. On an examination of the figures of income and expenditure given in columns 4 and 5 of the statement, it will appear that in some cases the grant of the loans would hardly be warranted as a commercial transaction. Thus Dhrangadra, with an ordinary surplus balance of Rs. 7,200, already owes Rs. 8,08,038 and now requires Rs. 2,10,250 for the current year and as much more for 1902-03; while in the case of Vankaner the expenditure has exceeded the income. These figures, however, show the results of past management, not what may be expected in future with the exercise of due care and economy. In order to secure the repayment of the loans, it will be necessary for Government to lay down a scale of expenditure to which the States must adhere under pain of being taken under management until the loans are repaid.

4. The total requirements for the present year, as estimated by the Political Agent, are Rs. 16,81,300, of which ten lakhs are urgently needed to meet immediate demands. I am to request that the Government of India may be moved to place this sum at the disposal of the Political Agent by telegram.

5. I am also to request that sanction may be accorded to the proposals of the Political Agent (1) that the recovery of instalments of Government and guaranteed loans already made to these States may be deferred to 1903; and (2) that the repayment of Government and guaranteed loans may be made *pari passu* in proportion to the amounts due under each head.

Enclosure in No. 122.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. Kennedy, Political Agent, Kathiawar, to J. L. Jenkins, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 850, *dated Camp, the* 16*th October*, 1901.

In confirming my telegram, No. 185, of 30th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a detailed statement showing the requirements of the several States who have applied for loans to carry on their administration, and to support their needy people during the current year which is again proving a bad year as regards crop out-turn.

2. It will be seen that the total amount comes to Rs. 34,26,400, as under :—

No.	——	Rs.
1	The total requirements of the States	30,24,540
2	Approximate cost of Central Relief Works in the Thana Circles about	2,00,000
3	Probable demands from other States	1,50,000
	Unforeseen charges	51,860
		34,26,400

Of the above amount a sum of Rs. 16,81,300 will be required from October, 1901, to March, 1902, while the balance of Rs. 17,45,100 will be required for the period between April and November, 1902.

3. I have calculated generally the administrative charges at 65 per cent. Advances to cultivators at 5 per cent., and advances to Bhayats and Grassias at 5 per cent. of the income of the States in an ordinary year; but in cases of some of the States it has not been possible to restrict the expenses to those percentages, the exercise of economy notwithstanding. One of the reasons for this is that the present is the fourth in an unbroken series of bad years, and so the condition of the labouring classes and cultivators has reached a very low ebb, and, as they have no means of their own, they will have to be supported by the States concerned. My estimate will be found to err in the direction of under estimation. I have estimated 5 per cent. of population to be in need of relief, and have made provision for them for ten months, calculating their wages all round at $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna per head per diem, but this standard must be exceeded in some of the States who will have to maintain their needy labourers and cultivators to a greater extent. I have thus kept my estimate to the lowest possible figure, and no reduction can be made therein.

4. The prospects in the greater part of Sorath and Halar are gloomy. The crops in Dhrangadhra, Bajana, Dasada, Vanod, Patdi, and Jhinjhuwada,

never this year very good, have been attacked by locusts and materially damaged. In other parts of Jhalavad the crops at one time promised well, but now, in the most favoured parts, the out-turn may be estimated at only 8 annas, as the want of late rain has materially and injuriously affected the prospects, and the locusts have done some damage here also. The States in Jhalavad who have applied for loans are very badly off in consequence of successive bad years (for this Prant was the worst off in the famine year and also last year), and are in real need of the money which they have asked for. In Gohilvad several Japti Estates have asked for loans to carry on their administration, and their requirements have been scrutinised by the Japti Superintendent, and in my office, where the Japti Superintendent's figures were materially cut down.

5. Some of the States have applied for money to meet their immediate wants, but not having any funds I have not been able to comply with their requests. Some relief works will have to be opened in the Thana Circles in the Sorath and Halar Prants as soon as possible, and the necessary funds will be required to start the works. I shall, therefore, feel obliged if Government will be pleased to obtain the sanction of the Government of India by wire to lend a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs at once to meet the immediate demands of this Province.

6. The amount will not be paid to the several States all at once, but will be paid on receipt of requisitions from them at an interval of two months after proper scrutiny.

7. Under the above circumstances, Government loan instalments, as also guaranteed loan instalments due by the States mentioned in the accompanying statement for St. 1958/A.D. 1902 must remain unpaid, and interest alone can be realised. In this connection I beg to bring to the notice of Government that some of the States have borrowed money from Government and private persons under the guarantee of the Agency. These loans should, in my opinion, be proportionately paid to them from St. 1959 if the financial condition of the States concerned permits this being done.

No. 123.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 4123 I.-A., dated the 8th November, 1901.

Your letter 548 M., October 26th. Immediate advance up to six lakhs is sanctioned for famine expenditure in Kathiawar Native States. Additional assistance will be granted if shown to be necessary. Question of postponement of instalments of Government and guaranteed loans already made to the States will be decided on examination of individual cases. Letter follows.

No. 124.

Letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to J. L. Jenkins, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 4270 I.-A., dated Simla, the 20th November, 1901.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with the telegram from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 4123 I.-A., dated the 8th November, 1901, which sanctioned an immediate advance up to Rs. 6 lakhs for expenditure on famine relief in the Native States in Kathiawar.

2. According to the figures in the statement which accompanied Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy's letter No. 850, dated the 16th October, 1901, the requirements of the several States, for the four months from October, 1901, to

January, 1902, inclusive, may be placed roughly at Rs. 8½ lakhs. The Government of India observe, however,—

(i) that the ordinary administrative charges of the States are calculated at 65 per cent., and in some cases at even a higher percentage, of the income in an ordinary year. These allotments* appear to be excessive, and should be capable of reduction in a famine year ;

* *Cf.* my telegram No. 3844 I.-A., dated the 22nd December, 1899, and connected papers.

(ii) that the States will receive a certain amount of revenue. The total receipts for the year are estimated at over Rs. 20½ lakhs ;

(iii) That the numbers in receipt of relief are not at present very high. In these circumstances, the advance of six lakhs should apparently suffice to meet all urgent calls up to the end of January, before which time a more detailed review of the situation should be furnished, accompanied, if necessary, by revised estimates of the requirements of the States.

3. As already explained, the Government of India would prefer that the question of the postponement of instalments of Government and guaranteed loans which have already been taken by the States should be decided on an examination of individual cases. In regard to the guaranteed loans, it will be necessary to consider in each instance whether the terms admit of the postponement contemplated. I am to request that a separate report may be furnished upon this point.

No. 125.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., M.A., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5178, *dated Bombay Castle, 22nd July,* 1901.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 3770 I.-A., dated the 24th August, 1900, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, the papers* noted in the margin relative to the famine loans made to certain States and Talukas in the Kathiawar Agency.

(1) Copy of Bombay Government Resolution, No. 837, dated the 4th February, 1901, and accompaniment.

(2) Copy of a letter from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 497, dated the 19th June, 1901, and of the statement referred to therein, with the agreement in original in each case.

2. It will be observed that of loans amounting to Rs. 50,29,122, outstanding on the 18th December, 1900, sums aggregating Rs. 13,122, have been repaid, leaving Rs. 50,16,000 to be recovered. The Political Agent's proposals relate only to Rs. 35,57,265, of this amount, the remainder, Rs. 14,58,735, being on account of four petty estates (Nos. 29, 32, 33 and 35 on the list), ballast work at Wadhwan (No. 34), and twelve Thanas (Nos. 37 to 48), the accounts for which have not yet been adjusted. The loans for the repayment of which proposals have yet to be submitted may therefore be classified as follows :—

——	Rs.
4 Petty Estates	29,016
Ballast work at Wadhwan	13,276
12 Thanas	14,16,443
	14,58,735

* Not printed.

The due apportionment of the loans among the great number of petty estates which compose the Thanas is a very intricate and difficult business, but the Political Agent will be asked to have it settled with as little delay as possible, and the agreements and proposals for repayment will then be submitted to the Government of India.

3. As regards the sum of Rs. 35,57,265 included in the proposals now submitted, I am to remark that in the case of five States, Dhrangadra, Vankaner, Wadhwan, Bajana and Kotda Sengani, which owe in the aggregate Rs. 17,81,278, it is proposed that repayment should extend over a period of 12 years during the first three of which interest only will be paid. The arrangement is not satisfactory, but in the impoverished condition of the States it is the best possible. The loan of Rs. 15,00,000, due from Navanagar will be repaid by 1904 ; and in all other cases, except the petty estate of Kotila Naja Raning of Dedan whose period runs to 1911, the loans will be repaid in six years or less. I am to request that the Government of India may be moved to accord their sanction to these proposals.

No. 126.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to J. L. Jenkins, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3553-I.A., dated Simla, the 23rd September, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5178, dated the 22nd July, 1901, regarding the recovery of famine loans made to certain States and Talukas in the Kathiawar Agency.

2. It is observed that of the loans amounting to Rs. 50,29,122, which were outstanding on the 18th December, 1900, sums aggregating Rs. 13,122 have been repaid, leaving a balance of Rs. 50,16,000 to be recovered. The proposals contained in paragraph 3 of your letter under reply as to the repayment of Rs. 35,57,265 of this balance are sanctioned. Proposals for the repayment of the remaining Rs. 14,58,735 should be submitted to the Government of India as early as possible.

3. I am to request that, if any variation of the sanctioned dates of repayment of the loans is contemplated, the Accountant-General, Bombay, should be given timely notice to enable him to take account of them in submitting his estimates of ways and means with the Budget estimates of each year. The debtors should, therefore, be requested to give due notice whenever they intend to avail themselves of the permission to make payment earlier.

No. 127.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 544-M., dated Mahableshwar, the 24th October, 1901.

Political Superintendent, Palanpur, requests immediate advance of half lakh rupees for seed and cattle to enable cultivators to grow *rabi* crops under wells in suitable localities. Advances will save expenditure on famine relief and Governor in Council strongly recommends they should be granted. Letter explaining situation follows.

No. 128.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 3970-I.A., dated Simla, the 29th October, 1901.

Your telegram 544-M., October 24th. Immediate advance of half lakh is sanctioned for purchase of seed and cattle for cultivators in Palanpur.

No. 129.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7481, dated Bombay Castle, the 26th October, 1901.

In continuation of my telegram No. 544 M., dated 24th October, 1901, requesting sanction to a loan of Rs. 50,000 required by the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, for advances to cultivators to enable them to grow rabi crops under wells, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of Major Ashby's letter No. 8023, dated the 18th October, 1901, and the Honourable Mr. Lely's Memorandum No. 155 F., dated the 20th idem, in which the circumstances which render the grant of the loan necessary are fully explained.

Enclosure in No. 129.

Letter from Major J. S. Ashby, Acting Political Superintendent, Palanpur, to J. L. Jenkins, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department (through the Commissioner, Northern Division), No. 8023, dated Palanpur, the 18th October, 1901.

With reference to my letter No. 7698 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to state that, as already reported, I have been obliged, owing to prevailing distress, to open relief works. I am, therefore, precluded from making any further advances from the one lakh rupees placed at my disposal—*vide* Government Resolution No. 4371, dated 19th June, 1901, Political Department—to cultivators or petty landholders, who have wells and bullocks, for seed to enable them to raise cold weather crops by irrigation. I would earnestly impress upon Government the advisability of sanctioning advances actually required for sowing such amount of land as can be irrigated. In making this suggestion, I believe that in the end it will be a saving to Government, for these persons and their families will not have to seek relief on the work. Probably the daily cost of each family would amount to at least 8 to 10 annas. This would come to a total amount of about Rs. 120 to 150 up to the commencement of the ensuing rainy season per family. The recoveries on account of the money advanced for seed would, in most cases, be made from the produce of this year's crop, and any balance would be recoverable with 4 per cent. interest, as desired by Government in their No. 5120, dated 19th July, 1901, and the families each containing on an average about eight persons (three men, three women and two children) will be in a position to maintain themselves until the next rabi crops.

2. I would, therefore, request that Government may be pleased to place at my disposal Rs. 50,000 (I would request that Government may be pleased to authorise me by wire to draw Rs. 10,000 from Rs. 66,000 set apart for relief work expenses for distribution of seed as the time for sowing wheat is passing, and this amount will be refunded when the above sum of Rs. 50,000 is sanctioned by Government) for advancing to the cultivators and Girasias under

the Thana Circle and managed estates and petty jurisdictional talukas for winter crop seed.

3. There is a balance of about Rs. 66,000 out of the rupees one lakh sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 4371, dated 19th June, 1901, Political Department, which has been set apart entirely for relief works in this Superintendency, which have been opened under the circumstances mentioned above.

4. As already remarked in my letter, those petty landholders who have no wells and who are reduced to the position of cultivators should not be advanced money for their maintenance, but they should be required to earn their maintenance on relief works. As regards the larger petty non-jurisdictional landholders, I am collecting full information, and, in any exceptional cases where it may be deemed advisable to advance any sums for maintenance of the families, I will submit proposals to Government at as early a date as possible.

5. There are—jagirs under the Agency management which, owing to the failure of crops, will require loans from Government to meet the calls on them on account of administrative and other charges, and I will do myself the honour of addressing Government hereafter on receipt of the necessary information from the District Deputy Assistant Political Superintendent.

6. Since writing the above I have received a letter from the Kamdar of Tharad making very similar suggestions to me for the Tharad State, and I beg to forward the same to Government for favour of perusal and consideration. The points raised by Mr. Mohanlal are, in my opinion, sound. The future agricultural prosperity of this Superintendency depends entirely on the possession of cattle fit for agricultural purposes, and any reasonable steps that can be taken to prevent cattle leaving the Superintendency should, in my opinion, be adopted.

7. The number of cattle were reduced enormously during the past famine (and while I have arranged that no cattle given to cultivators from the Bombay Charitable Relief Fund or on advance from Government shall be disposed of), it is impossible to prevent other cattle being sold which will certainly be done if their owners cannot obtain advances for seed for winter irrigated crops.

8. The system of grouping families for winter cultivation is a commendable one and has already been adopted in the issue of bullocks from the Charitable Relief Fund.

Endorsed by Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 155 *F., dated Viramgam, the* 20*th October*, 1901.

Forwarded.

It is hoped Government may be pleased to accede to the requests in Major Ashby's paragraph 2. Also the Rs. 23,000 asked for rabi cultivation by the Kamdar of Tharad would do great good. It is not so certain about the construction of wells he proposes.

No. 130.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 522 *M., dated Mahableshwar, the* 15*th October*, 1901.

Regret to report almost complete failure of crops in Palanpore Superintendency, and situation is aggravated by threatened water famine. Political Superintendent estimates loans amounting to six lakhs to end of March and nine lakhs next year will be required. Detailed estimates will follow, but this intimation is given to facilitate provision of means.

No. 131.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3945 *I. A., dated the 28th October,* 1901.

Do you anticipate that any Native States will require famine loans during present and coming financial year? If so, please furnish particulars at earliest possible date.

No. 132.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 3947 *I.A., dated the 28th October,* 1901.

Your telegram No. 522 M., October 15th. Famine loans for Palanpore. Detailed estimates will be awaited. It is most desirable that Government should be in possession of very early and complete information regarding such demands in order to facilitate provision of funds.

No. 133.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 5797, *dated Bombay Castle, the 17th August,* 1901.

I am directed to forward, for the consideration of the Government of India, copies of a letter No. 5627, dated the 25th ultimo, from the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, and of a Memorandum No. 8126, dated the 3rd instant, from the Commissioner, Northern Division, containing proposals for the repayment of advances made for the relief of famine in the Thana Circles of the Palanpur Superintendency.

2. I am to explain that these Thana Circles consist of numerous petty Estates, many of which are minutely subdivided; and the persons from whom the sovereignty, which is delegated to the British Government, is supposed to be derived, retain no vestige of their position as rulers beyond the proprietorship of a few fields. Their resources are less than those of well-to-do cultivators in a prosperous district. The circles are under the direct administration of the Political Superintendent; and the expenditure on account of famine relief was directed by the Political Superintendent just as it would be by the Collector in a British District. It is therefore debitable, except in the few instances noted by the Political Superintendent, not against separate Estates or particular individuals, but against the population of the Thana Circles as a whole.

3. The whole expenditure incurred on account of the Thana Circles has amounted to Rs. 3,73,804. It is proposed to provide for the repayment of this amount by the levy of a cess of one anna per *bigha* on all cultivated land, which on the lowest estimated area of 600,000 cultivated *bighas* will yield a revenue of Rs. 37,500 per annum. It is also proposed to impose a non-agricultural tax in the shape of a house tax which is estimated to yield Rs. 5,000 per annum, sufficient to cover the cost of the establishment required for the collection of the cess. Under this arrangement the debt will be liquidated in 14 years; but as the area of cultivation may be expected to increase, as the effects of famine pass away, the time will probably be shorter.

4. The proposed cess on cultivated land will, approximately, be equal to the Local Fund Cess of one anna in the rupee levied in British Districts on the

assessment of all occupied land whether cultivated or fallow ; and it should not prove too heavy a burden. The assessment of the non-agricultural tax will require careful consideration ; and I am to say that the Political Superintendent will be asked to submit definite proposals for the approval of the Governor in Council before the tax is actually introduced.

5. I am to request that the Government of India may be moved to accord their sanction to this scheme of repayment, which, I am to say, appears to the Governor in Council to be the best which can be devised in the circumstances described by the Political Superintendent.

No. 134.

Telegram from Foreign Secretary, Simla, to Bombay Political, Bombay, No. 3558 *I.A., dated the* 23*rd September*, 1901.

Your letter 5797, August 17th. Please report by letter what land revenue is assessed on the Thana Circles, and the incidence of the assessment compared with British districts, or the method and period of their land revenue settlement.

No. 135.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6781, *dated Bombay Castle, the* 30*th September*, 1901.

With reference to your telegram No. 3558 I.A., dated 23rd instant, asking for certain information regarding the land revenue in the Thana Circles of the Palanpur Superintendency, I am directed to explain that there is no land revenue in these circles in the sense of revenue which is collected for the use of a State. What would, in an organised State, be land revenue, goes into the pockets of the shareholders in the estates, and is employed by them for their own personal uses. Much of the land is also alienated and pays no rent, or only a reduced rent to the shareholders. When the land is cultivated by the shareholders or the alienees themselves, the proposed cess of 1 anna per bigha on all cultivated land will come out of, and not be an addition to, the rent. Where it is held by occupancy tenants, the payment of the cess will be a matter of bargain between them and the landlords, and as the population has greatly decreased and cultivators are scarce, it is probable that the cess will be thrown upon the landlords. Thus the cess will be paid out of that portion of the produce which would form part of the resources of a homogeneous State, but, in the Thana Circles, is dissipated among a great number of petty landlords, who make small contributions under the title of " Thana Varad," towards the expenses of the administration.

2. Where rent is levied, and does not form part of the income derived by the landlords from land held and cultivated by themselves, it is generally taken in kind, the share varying from one-third to one-half of the produce. There are no regular land revenue settlements. For a comparison of the incidence of the rent received by the landlords with the incidence of the assessment in British districts, a special inquiry would be necessary, and it is doubtful whether any useful or trustworthy results would be obtained.

No. 136.

Letter from J. L. Jenkins, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8306, *dated Bombay Castle, the 29th November*, 1901.

With reference to the correspondence ending with my letter No. 6781, dated the 30th September, 1901, regarding proposals for the recovery of the advances made for famine relief in the Thana Circles of the Palanpur Superintendency, I am directed to state, for the information of the Government of India, that owing to the failure of the recent monsoon in the Superintendency, there is no possibility of local cess being recovered from the people this year, and I am accordingly to recommend that the proposals referred to above, if approved by the Government of India, may be held in abeyance for one year.

No. 137.

Letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 4410 *I.A., dated Fort William, the 10th December*, 1901.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 6781, dated the 30th September, 1901, containing proposals for the recovery of the advances, amounting to Rs. 3,73,804, which have been made for the relief of famine in the Thana Circles of the Palanpur Superintendency.

2. The proposals are that a cess of 1 anna per *bigha* shall be levied on all cultivated land, which, it is calculated, will yield a revenue of Rs. 37,500 per annum, and that a non-agricultural tax, in the shape of a house tax, which is estimated to yield Rs. 5,000 per annum, shall also be levied, to cover the cost of the establishment required for the collection of the cess. Under this arrangement, it is anticipated that the debt would be liquidated in about 14 years.

3. In justification of the impost it is pointed out—

(*a*) that the proprietors pay no land revenue or cesses ;

(*b*) that a cess of 1 anna per *bigha* will approximate in incidence to the local rate of 1 anna per rupee of revenue which is paid in British districts ; and

(*c*) that a similar cess is actually levied in the Mahi Kantha Agency.

4. In the circumstances described in Major Ashby's letter of the 25th July, 1901, the Governor-General in Council entertains grave doubts as to the propriety of levying the tax in a tract which has suffered so severely. In any case, having regard to the impoverished condition of the people, the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the tax should certainly be postponed* for at least two years. If, at the expiry of that period, the Bombay Government consider that the levy may fairly be made, fresh proposals to that end may be furnished. But the Government of India would not like to say anything at the present date that may imply the probability of consent at a later period. They would prefer to retain a complete discretion.

* Your letter No. 8306, dated the 29th November, 1901, which recommends that the proposals should be held in abeyance for one year, was received when the present orders were on the point of issuing.

III.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

BARODA.

No. 138.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8126, *dated Baroda, the 9th May*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 6336, dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of April last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 138.

Remarks for April, 1900.

The record shows an increase of 11,588 labourers during the month, the total on the last day of April being 82,104 including those on gratuitous relief against 70,516 of the previous month.

The works in progress consist chiefly of tank excavation, road-making and metal-breaking. Earth-work of the Bardarpur-Songhir Railway sanctioned by the Government of India has recently been taken in hand in addition to the following railway lines :—

(1) Baroda-Godhra Chord Railway.
(2) Petlad-Cambay Extension.
(3) Miyagam-Sinore Railway.
(4) Kalol-Vijapur Railway.

The work of constructing two large reservoirs for irrigational purposes—one in the Kadi and the other in Baroda districts—have also been commenced.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under seven years of age. Poor-houses have been opened at certain places where those unable to work are maintained.

The physical condition of the people continues to be fair except in Okhamandal. Cases of cholera are reported to have occurred in parts of Baroda, Kadi and Naosari Divisions.

The condition of the agricultural stock continues unsatisfactory for want of fodder and water and many have died. Those surviving are in an emaciated state.

Maps† indicating the affected tracts as required by the rules accompany.

* Not printed. † Maps not reproduced.

No. 139.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 10136, *dated Baroda, the 9th June,* 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 8126, dated the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of May last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 139.

Remarks for May, 1900.

The records show an increase of 12,994 labourers during the month, the total on the last day of May being 95,098, including those on gratuitous relief, against 82,104 of the previous month.

The works in progress consist chiefly of constructing two large reservoirs, one in Kadi and the other in Baroda districts, for irrigational purposes, road-making, metal breaking and earthwork of some of the railway lines sanctioned by the Government of India.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age. Poor-houses have also been opened at convenient places where those unable to work are maintained.

The physical condition of the people continues to be fair, except in Okhamandal. Cholera prevails in the Baroda, Kadi, Naosari and Amreli districts.

The condition of the agricultural stock continues unsatisfactory for want of sufficient fodder and water, and many have died. The Darbar have recently sanctioned 8 lakhs of rupees for taccavi advances to cultivators for the purchase of bullocks, seed and implements.

Maps† indicating the affected tracts as required by the rules accompany.

No. 140.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 12430, *dated Baroda, the 11th July,* 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 10136, dated the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of June last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 140.

Remarks for June, 1900.

The statement shows an increase of 23,168 labourers during the month, the total on the last day of June being 118,266 including those on gratuitous relief against 95,098 of the previous month.

The works in progress consist chiefly of constructing reservoirs for irrigational purposes, road making, metal breaking and earthworks of some of the railway lines sanctioned by the Government of India.

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* Not printed. † Maps not reproduced.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under seven years of age and to those unable to work by feeding them in poor-houses.

The physical condition of the people continues to be fair except in Okhamundal. Cholera continues in the four divisions of the Baroda territory.

Rain is immediately needed for agricultural purposes. Its absence causes considerable anxiety to the people as well as the authorities. Land has been prepared for monsoon cultivation, but owing to the absence of rain sowing operations have not commenced.

The condition of agricultural stock continues unsatisfactory for want of fodder and water. The work of distributing money as taccavi advances to cultivators for the purchase of bullock, seed and implements, sanctioned by the Darbar, still continues. The prices of food-grains have lately risen.

Maps* indicating the affected tracts as required by the rules accompany.

No. 141.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Resident at Baroda, No. 3272 I.-A., dated 27th July, 1900.

The percentage of the population of Baroda under relief is only about one-fifth of the percentage under relief in the neighbouring districts of British India. Are you satisfied that relief in Baroda is really sufficient? Have the numbers in receipt of relief recently declined? If so, what is the explanation of this? Have you received any recent complaints of migration of Baroda subjects into British territory, or from other sources of information have you reason to believe it is taking place?

No. 142.

Telegram from the Resident at Baroda, Camp, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 13996, dated the 30th July, 1900.

Your 3272 I.-A. Okhamandal and Amreli districts famine relief continually reported on by Assistant Residents, and is no doubt sufficient. Baroda, Kadi and Naosari districts interlaced with British Districts, and no complaints of insufficiency of relief works or recent complaints of migration to British works. Hence relief appears sufficient in Baroda State, and migration is unappreciable and reciprocal. Number in receipt of relief slightly declined after week ending 19th May, owing to hopes of agricultural operations. Number again rose slightly for week ending 14th instant; will probably now decline owing to good rainfall. Ratio on relief in Baroda has always been less than in neighbouring British districts due to cultivation of large areas by irrigation.

No. 143.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 14787, dated Baroda, the 9th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 12430, dated the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement† giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar, during the month of July last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

* Maps not reproduced.

† Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 143.

Remarks for July, 1900.

This statement shows a decrease of 17,302 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of July being 100,964 including those on gratuitous relief against 118,266 of the previous month.

The decrease in the number of persons seeking relief is chiefly due to the fall of rain throughout Baroda territory in the last week of the month and prospects have considerably improved. Sowing operations have been started.

The works in progress consist chiefly of constructing reservoirs for irrigational purposes, road repairing, metal breaking and earthworks of some of the railway lines. The earthwork of the Petlad-Cambay Railway extension is now nearly finished.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work by feeding them in poor-houses.

The public health is far from satisfactory, as cholera has been raging throughout the Baroda territory, but it is hoped the epidemic will soon die out as good rain has now fallen.

The condition of the agricultural stock continued to be unsatisfactory during the month for want of fodder and water.

Maps* indicating the affected tracts as required by the rules accompany.

No. 144.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 17107, *dated Baroda, the* 12*th September*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 14787, dated the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement† giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of August last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 144.

Remarks for August, 1900.

This statement shows a decrease of 52,954 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of August being 48,010 against 100,964 of the previous month.

The decrease in the number of persons seeking relief is chiefly due to the fall of rain throughout Baroda territory during the month, and prospects have now considerably improved. Sowing operations have been completed.

The works in progress consist chiefly of road repairing, constructing reservoirs for irrigational purposes and earthworks of some of the railway lines.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work by feeding them in the poor-houses.

Public health has much improved, though cholera is prevailing in a mild form.

The condition of the agricultural stock shows much improvement, as sufficient green grass has grown.

Maps* indicating the affected tracts as required by the rules accompany.

* Maps not reproduced. † Not printed.

No. 145.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 18767, *dated Baroda, the* 10*th October*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 17107, dated the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar, during the month of September last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 145.

Remarks for September, 1900.

This statement shows a decrease of 4,209 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of September being 43,801 against 48,010 of the previous month.

The works in progress consist chiefly of road making and repairing, construction of reservoirs for irrigational purposes and earthworks of some of the railway lines.

Gratuitous relief was as usual afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work.

Want of little late rain is felt, although standing crops are at present in fair condition. Land is under preparation for rabi sowing.

Public health has much improved, and cholera has now completely disappeared. The physical condition of the people on the whole is good.

The condition of the agricultural stock is now satisfactory.

Maps† indicating the affected tracts accompany.

No. 146.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 20498, *dated Baroda, the* 10*th November*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 18767, dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of October, 1900, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 146.

Remarks for October, 1900.

This statement shows a decrease of 20,258 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of October being 23,543 against 43,801 of the previous month.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under seven years of age and to those unable to work

There was no rain during the month. Harvesting of kharif and sowing of rabi crops have been completed. The germinated rabi crops are withering for want of rain. In Okhamandal the outturn of crops is estimated at three to four annas in the rupee.

The condition of agricultural stock is satisfactory.

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* Not printed. † Maps not reproduced.

Public health has considerably improved of late, though fever is prevailing in some parts. The physical condition of the people on the whole is fair.

Maps* indicating the affected tracts accompany.

No. 147.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 22270, *dated Baroda, the* 10*th December*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 20498, dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement† giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar, during the month of November 1900, in consequence of the distress prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 147.

Remarks for November, 1900.

This statement shows a decrease of 12,608 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief; the total on the last day of November being 10,935 against 23,543 of the previous month.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work.

There was no rain during the month. Owing to failure of late rains, the germinated rabi crops are withering.

The condition of the agricultural stock is satisfactory and the physical condition of the people on the whole is fair.

Maps indicating the affected tracts accompany.

No. 148.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 708, *dated Baroda, the* 10*th January*, 1901.

In continuation of my letter No. 22270, dated the 10th December, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement† giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar, during the month of December 1900, in consequence of the distress prevailing owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 148.

Remarks for December, 1900.

This statement shows an increase of 3,995 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of December being 14,930 against 10,935 of the previous month. The increase is due to harvesting of kharif crops being over.

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* Maps not reproduced. † Not printed.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work.

The standing rabi crops are in fair condition.

The condition of the agricultural stock is satisfactory, and the physical condition of the people on the whole is fair.

Maps* indicating the affected tracts accompany.

No. 149.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2728, *dated Baroda, the* 11*th February*, 1901.

In continuation of my letter, No. 708, dated the 10th January, 1901, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement† giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar, during the month of January last, in consequence of the distress prevailing owing to partial failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 149.

Remarks for January, 1901.

This statement shows an increase of 1,716 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of January being 16,646 against 14,930 of the previous month.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work.

The physical condition of the people on the whole is fair.

As there is no famine at present, but merely scarcity owing to the partial failure of last monsoon, maps indicating the affected parts have not been sent.

No. 150.

Letter from Major W. H. M. Stewart, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4672, *dated Baroda, the* 15*th March*, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 2728, dated the 11th February, 1901, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement† giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of February last, in consequence of the distress prevailing owing to partial failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 150.

Remarks for February, 1901.

This statement shows an increase of 1,476 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day, February, being 18,122 against 16,646 of the previous month.

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* Maps not reproduced.

† Not printed.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work,

The out-turn of the rabi crop is estimated to be below normal owing to the partial failure of last monsoon.

The physical condition of the people is, on the whole, fair.

No. 151.

Letter from Major W. H. M. Stewart, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6145, *dated Baroda, the* 11*th April*, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 4672, dated the 15th March last, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of March, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 151.

Remarks for March, 1901.

This statement shows a decrease of 1,944 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of March being 16,178 against 18,122 of the previous month.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work.

The physical condition of the people is, on the whole, fair.

No. 152.

Letter from Major W. H. M. Stewart, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 8225, *dated Baroda, the* 13*th May*, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 6145, dated the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of April, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 152.

Remarks for April, 1901.

This statement shows an increase of 3,346 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of April being 19,254 against 16,178 of the previous month.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work.

The physical condition of the people is, on the whole, fair.

* Not printed.

No. 153.

Letter from Major W. H. M. Stewart, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 9818, *dated Baroda, the* 10*th June*, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 8225, dated the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of May, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 153.

Remarks for May, 1901.

This statement shows an increase of 9,061 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of May being 28,585 against 19,524 of the previous month.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work.

Taccavi advances for maintenance and for the purchase of bullocks are being made in some districts.

The physical condition of the people is, on the whole, fair.

No. 154.

Letter from Major W. H. M. Stewart, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 11936, *dated Baroda, the* 13*th July*, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 9818, dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Darbar during the month of June, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 154.

Remarks for June, 1901.

This statement shows an increase of 2,459 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of June being 31,044 against 28,585.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under seven years of age and to those unable to work.

Taccavi advances for maintenance and for the purchase of bullocks are being made to cultivators in some districts.

Rain fell in the latter part of the month in some parts of Baroda and Naosari Divisions, where sowing operations have commenced.

The physical condition of the people is, on the whole, fair.

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* Not printed.

No. 155.

Letter from Major W. H. M. Stewart, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated Baroda, the 12th August, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 11936, dated the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of July, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 155.

Remarks for July, 1901.

This statement shows a decrease of 2,693 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of July being 28,351 against 31,044 in June

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under seven years of age, and to those unable to work owing to old age or infirmity.

Taccavi advances for maintenance and for the purchase of bullocks are being made to cultivators who apply for it.

Sufficient rain fell during the month in most parts of the Baroda territory. It was deficient in four talukas of the Amreli district including Okhamandal.

Standing crops are doing well, and, in place where they were damaged by rats and caterpillars, they are being resown. The physical condition of the people continues satisfactory.

No. 156.

Letter from Major W. H. M. Stewart, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 15964, dated Baroda, the 12th September, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 13852, dated the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of August, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 156.

Remarks for August, 1901.

This statement shows a decrease of 993 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of August being 27,358 against 28,351 in July.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under seven years of age and to those unable to work owing to old age or infirmity.

Taccavi advances for the purchase of bullocks are made where required.

Rain is still deficient in four talukas of the Amreli district, including Okhamandal.

The physical condition of the people continues satisfactory.

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* Not printed.

No. 157.

Letter from Captain H. B. Peacock, Officiating First Assistant to the Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 17703, *dated Baroda, the* 12*th October* 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 15964, dated the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the Month of September, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 157.

Remarks for September, 1901.

This statement shows a decrease of 1,346 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of September being 26,012 against 27,358 in August.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work owing to old age or infirmity.

Taccavi advances for the purchase of bullocks are made where required.

Rain is still deficient in four talukas of the Amreli district, including Okhamandal and in certain portions of the Baroda, Kadi and Nowsari divisions.

Prices of food-grains are advancing.

The physical condition of the people continues satisfactory.

No. 158.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Meade, C.I.E., Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 19667, *dated Baroda, the* 15*th November*, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 17703, dated the 12th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of October, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 158.

Remarks for October, 1901.

This statement shows a decrease of 2,092 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of October being 23,920 against 26,012 in September. The decrease is temporary, due probably to the harvesting of kharif crops.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and to those unable to work owing to old age or infirmity.

Taccavi advances for the purchase of bullocks are made by the State where required.

Standing crops which have escaped ravages of rats, locust and caterpillars are still in a fair condition, but in many places they are withering for want of sufficient rain. Rabi sowing is in progress, but prospects are gloomy, as there is want of sufficient moisture.

The physical condition of the people continues satisfactory.

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* Not printed.

No. 159.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Meade, C.I.E., Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 21451, dated Baroda, the 13th December, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 19667, dated the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of November, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 159.

Remarks for November, 1901.

This statement shows an increase of 4,898 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of November being 28,818 against 23,920 in October.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under seven years of age and to those unable to work owing to old age or infirmity.

Taccavi advances for the purchase of bullocks, digging new wells, are made by the State where required.

Harvesting of kharif crops is almost over. The outturn of bajri crop is normal, and of the other staple food-grains it is from 2 to 6 annas. Standing rabi crops are in fair condition, but outturn will be poor, owing to ravages of rats and other insects, and want of sufficient moisture.

The physical condition of the people continues satisfactory.

No. 160.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Meade, C I.E., Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 807, dated Baroda, the 11th January, 1902.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 21451, dated the 13th December, 1901, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a statement* giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of December, 1901.

Enclosure in No. 160.

Remarks for December, 1901.

This statement shows an increase of 5,766 persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, the total on the last day of December, 1901, being 34,584 against 28,818 in November.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under seven years of age and to those unable to work owing to old age or infirmity.

Taccavi advances for the purchase of bullocks and digging of new wells are made by the State where required.

Standing rabi crops are in fair condition at present, but outturn will be poor, owing to absence of late rains and ravages of rats and insects. It is difficult to irrigate rabi crops from wells, as water in wells and tanks is decreasing.

The condition of agricultural stock is satisfactory.

The physical condition of the people continues satisfactory.

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* Not printed.

No. 161.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3002, *dated Baroda, the* 15*th*—16*th February*, 1901.

I have the honour to submit a summary of the diary of my tour in the Kadi Division of the Baroda State in connection with the late famine and to submit the following report :—

2. Kadi is the northern ~~and most important~~ Division of the Baroda State. On the north it marches with the boundary of States and talukas under Palanpur Superintendency ; on the east with the Mahi Kantha States and Ahmedabad district ; on the south and south-west it borders on and is interlaced with the Ahmedabad and Kaira districts, while on the west it is touched by outlying districts of the Ahmedabad Collectorate and of the Mahi Kantha and Kathiawar States, with an area of 3,146 square miles, it has a population of 1,098,583, and is divided into ten talukas containing 1,199 villages. The average rainfall is 32 inches, and the rainfall in 1898, 1899, and 1900, respectively, was 22·27 inches, 3·75 inches and 25·5 inches. The total revenue demand for 1898–1899 and 1899–1900 was respectively Rs. 36,35,118 and Rs. 34,36,453, while the amount collected respectively was Rs. 34,71,127 and Rs. 14,39,766. The Division is intersected by the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, portion of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India, north and south—the eastern portion being being as fertile as the western portion is unproductive, due chiefly to brackish water aud saline deposit in the soil.

3. The fact that this Division is bordered by British districts and States under the Bombay Government has brought its famine administration under close observation, more especially during the early part of the famine, when numbers of Gaekwari villagers of this Division resorted to the relief works in the adjacent British villages. The comparative adequacy of relief works provided by the Baroda State has, moreover, been criticised in the Press. It was, therefore, with a view to ascertain its condition and see the relief works provided that I decided to visit this Division.

4. One hundred and one relief works were taken up in this Division, including the earth-work of three Branch Railways,* 49·60 miles in length, and two large irrigation projects,† estimated to cost 7½ lakhs, and Rs. 7,90,294 out of a sanctioned grant of Rs. 17,04,693 has been expended. Takavi advances for different purposes to the extent of Rs. 7,06,256 has been distributed out of a sanctioned grant of Rs. 8,46,376 ; the balance will be expended for the winter crop. It is estimated that the encouragement given in the shape of takavi advances has resulted in relieving some 600,000 persons, because the amount of land cultivated in Samwat 1956 (1899-1900) was over 5,00,000 bighas, there being about 50,000 wells in the Division.

—	Miles.
* Kalol-Kadi Railway...	12·
Kalol-Vijapur Railway	29·60
Ranuj-Chansama Railway	8·
Total	49·60

—	Rs.
† Kadarpur Project	4,64,557
Anawada do.	3,00,000
Total	7,64,557

5. These advances were of two kinds ; those issued during the famine and those subsequent to it—in the first, instalments begin after second year ; in the second, after first year's repayment, and sums up to Rs. 100 are realised in 10 instalments ; repayment of larger sums are carried on over 20 years ; applications were disposed of ~~on their merits.~~

6. Poor-houses were opened and maintained at the head-quarters of each taluka and returns show an expenditure under this head of Rs. 1,35,182, and that they afforded relief to about 46,866 persons ; apart from this, a further sum of Rs. 82,599 from subscription and other sources was contributed and expended on charity, and Rs. 42,543 were expended on special objects up to the end of November from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

7. The percentage of persons on relief works and charitable relief to the population was about 3·75, and the percentage of deaths was 42 per thousand in this Division during 1899–1900, and is the lowest of all the Divisions of the Baroda State. Baroda, Naosari and Amreli being respectively 62, 65 and 63.

8. The small percentage on works is chiefly attributable to the existence of old and sinking of new wells. Returns show that during 1899–1900, 12,457 new wells were dug in this Division, which is estimated to have given employment to not less than 56,000 persons. It is to the existence of its wells that the Division owes much of its comparative prosperity, for, whereas previous to the famine, Baroda, Naosari and Amreli Divisions are recorded to have 7,910, 7,416, 5,519 wells, the Kadi Division possessed 38,045, to which 12,457 have now been added. I attach a statement showing the area of land under cultivation during 1899–1900, which shows that while about 7,193 bighas were relinquished, 16,856 bighas were taken up for cultivation, and that a total area of about 17,13,784 was in possession of cultivators in 1899–1900 as against about 17,04,122 in 1898–1899. Mortality among cattle may be taken at about 50 per cent., returns examined show that out of 206,305 head in 1898–1899, 103 269 survived during 1898 and 1900.

9. Referring to the summary of my diary, it will be seen that I left Baroda on 20th November and returned on the 9th December ; during this period of 19 days I travelled 185 miles by rail and rode 303 miles, and visited portions of each of the ten talukas and personally inspected 95 villages of this Division. The enclosed tracing will show the route taken. The method adopted was to visit a certain number of villages within a radius of 10—20 miles each day. At each village the Patel, Talati and Mukhi were questioned as to the condition of the villages. Information for the whole taluka was obtained at the head-quarters of each taluka visited, and that for the whole Division was supplied through the courtesy of the Suba, who, as well as all local officials, afforded me every assistance. An official of the Settlement Department, with special knowledge of this Division and who formed one of a Committee to grant takavi advances, was deputed to accompany me thoughout the tour and afforded me all assistance and information I required. The information obtained may, therefore, be accepted as fairly accurate and the figures given as approximately correct up to the end of October.

10. After personal inspection of most of the relief works provided and enquiry into the condition of this Division, I am able to record as follows :—

(I) Sufficient and suitable relief works have been provided and have been accessible to all willing to resort to them.

(II) Kunbis or cultivating class, though they have as a class not availed themselves of relief works, have obtained employment and subsistence from the numerous wells in the Division.

(III) Takavi advances in different forms have been given as far as was consistent.

(IV) There has been no culpable immigration of Baroda subjects to outside relief works, while some have certainly resorted to outside relief works. Outsiders have also been accommodated on State relief works.

(V) Although approximately half the revenue demand has been realised from cultivators for 1899-1900 under some pressure, and although there may have been some individual cases of hardship, the amount collected appears to have been within the capacity of the cultivators ; but as this has been realised in the majority of cases

from reserve, such as saving in cash and jewellry, etc., in spite of an average harvest in half the Division, it will probably be impossible to obtain more than half the revenue demand for 1900-1901. In some of the districts of this Division relief works will have to be opened after February, 1901.

(VI) Poor-houses have been maintained at the head-quarters of each taluka, and charitable funds collected and distributed. Although there must have been some deaths from starvation, the majority is due to cholera and a very severe and fatal type of fever, which has been prevalent throughout the State after the rains.

(VII) The State has acted up to its responsibilities as regards this Division, and its famine administration has been well and intelligently carried out by the Suba, Mr. Vanikar, and local officials.

11. I trust the Government of India will approve my action and be able to accept these conclusions.

Enclosure in No. 161.

SUMMARY OF THE DIARY OF THE RESIDENT AT BARODA, OF THE TOUR IN THE KADI DIVISION OF HIS HIGHNESS THE GAEKWAR'S TERRITORY.

DEHGAM TALUKA.

20*th November*, 1900.—I left Baroda on the 20th, and reached Naroda, a station on the Ahmedabad-Prantij Railway, where I left the train and visited the villages of Bilasia and Kathwada which have been the subject of correspondence with the Government of India (*see* this office letter No. 19959, dated 1st November, 1900, to the Foreign Secretary). I closely examined the village officials and went over both villages, found the condition as explained to the Government of India in the letter above referred to. Owing to the proximity of these villages to Ahmedabad, the villagers go to work there as well as take their wares and produce for sale to the market. The death-rate was much the same and due, as in other villages in the Kadi Division, chiefly to cholera and fever. A large proportion of the land in both villages is usually under rice cultivation and from this crop is paid the revenue demand. Rice again failed entirely owing to want of rain in September and October, the *bajri* crop had been fair, a quarter of the revenue demand was realised for last year and not more is expected this year. There is a large tract of grass land round these villages annually let for grazing to an Ahmedabad contractor. Wasna, a village six miles off, was the nearest relief work in Baroda territory; few, however, appear to have resorted there, preferring the relief work at Naroda (Ahmedabad District) which is close. Excepting from one man, a Thakarda by caste, who could have obtained work if he had chosen, I received no complaints. Takavi advances had been given as far as was consistent with the circumstances of the applicants. Although no notice was given of my visit, I found the village Talatis with their books written up, and information was readily given. The wells had an ample supply of water. The price of *bajri*, the staple food, was reduced, and the condition of the two villages seemed as good as could be expected.

Jhank.

In addition to a fair *bajri* crop, this village, which is on the bank of the Khari river, had especially good standing crop of castor oil and an 8-anna revenue expected to be paid; the villagers had resorted to Ahmedabad and Wasna relief-works, had lost about 50 per cent. of their cattle.

Dehgam.

The head-quarters of the Taluka had three (tank) relief works which were well resorted to, also a poor-house. This was opened on 30th March, 1900, on which up to date Rs. 3,082 had been spent and some Rs. 3,900 had been taken in. It was still open, and on the day of my visit contained

87 inmates, the highest number during the famine had been 497; the arrangements seem to be suitable.

Falia, Hematpura, Sampa.

21st November, 1900.—These are border villages on Mahi Kantha. A small relief work (tank) was provided at Sampa which lasted for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ months and was resorted to almost entirely by the villagers. The largest number employed was 300, Ahmedabad and the Dehgam relief works being resorted to by the villagers of Palia and Hemetpura. Takavi advances had been given in all these villages.

Nandoli, Halisa, Giod, Chhala.

22nd November, 1900.—The condition of these villages was much the same; they had reaped an excellent *bajri* crop. Tank work had been provided at Chhala which lasted for about three months. The numbers were about 400 daily, which included people from Mahi Kantha villages.

The Dehgam Taluka has a population of 69,253 and which comprises 89 *khalsa* and 7 alienated villages. Out of a revenue demand of Rs. 2,20,982 Rs. 47,197 were only realised in 1899 and 1900. Eleven village works, out of 14 sanctioned, were taken up on which, up to date, Rs. 20,796 had been expended and Rs. 60,689 given in takavi advances.

KALOL TALUKA.

Alwa.

A small village belonging to a Thakur, who had provided doles or food, as far as possible, for his village. This village had apparently not received any assistance from the Darbar.

Mabarakpur, Unawa, Chandisan, Amja, Balwa.

23rd November, 1900.—In these villages the crops of *bajri*, *toor*, and tobacco were especially good. Wells were plentiful in these villages and had been worked. I learnt from villagers that no large proportion of them had resorted to the Kalol-Vijapur Railway or minor village relief works. The Kunbies or agricultural class, who formed the majority of the population of these villages, had worked at the wells. The mortality in these villages was more due to fever and cholera than famine. The villages of Chandisan and Amja are held by a Thakur on a quit-rent of Rs. 700. Enquiry showed that the Thakur had provided food and work for his villagers; a few had resorted to the relief works. Takavi advances had been granted to all the *khalsa* villages. Balwa, a small village containing a large number of *girassias*, whose women are kept in purdah, having received Rs. 400.

During my halt at Alwa, I visited Sadra, which is the head-quarters of the Mahi Kantha Agency and on the opposite bank of the Sabarmati river, and was able to estimate the advantages to be obtained from the proposed railway station at Limbodra on the Kalol-Vijapur Railway, and the comparative necessity of metalling the road from Sadra to the Railway at Dabhoda—*vide* correspondence ending with this office letter No. 258, dated 4th January, 1901, to the Government of India, Foreign Department. There is no doubt that numbers from the neighbouring Gaekwari villages resorted to Sadra during the famine for charitable relief. These, for the most part, had to be sent back to Dehgam, as, owing to the state of the roads to Sadra, the difficulties of import of grain was greatly increased.

Manekpur, Galathra, Lodra, Pudhra, and Ranasan.

24th November, 1900.—Of these Galathra, Pudhra and Ranasan are *khalsa* villages. The Kalol-Vijapur railway embankment was twice crossed in the visit to these villages. This work afforded relief to all these villages, and at Pudhra tank relief-work had been provided; the *bajri*, *toor* and castor oil were at least 8-anna crop. The land seems particularly fertile, and a plentiful supply of wells and takavi advances had been given freely in the *khalsa* villages of Galathra, Pudhra, and Ranasan. The general expression of the villagers was that they had had a bad time and would be

all right now but for the loss of cattle, which, as elsewhere, had been about 50 per cent. Cholera and fever had claimed more victims than famine.

VIJAPUR TALUKA.

Vijapur.

Head-quarters of taluka of the same name and the proposed terminus of the Kalol-Vijapur Railway, the earthwork of which has been completed as a famine relief work. Eight relief works were provided for this taluka, six of which (five tank works at Vijapur, Pandhara, Gawada, Aglod and the railway embankment) were taken up and Rs. 5,500 approximately were expended on tank work; there are 84 villages with a population of 156,113 in this taluka and Rs. 2,54,678 were realised during 1899–1900 out of a revenue demand of Rs. 3,52,427, and out of a total sanction of Rs. 38,000 on account of takavi Rs. 27,406 had been given up to date. A poor-house was kept up here by private subscription till August, 1900, when it was taken over by the Darbar; as many as 400 inmates had been accommodated at one time, and there were 67 when I visited it on 24th November. Arrangements seemed sufficient.

Malosan, Gawada, Kolawada.

25th November, 1900.—The condition of all these villages was good owing to the abundance of wells. The small wells are easily dug, water being obtained within 10 or 20 feet of the surface at a cost of Rs. 6. These are worked by hand or one bullock. Gawada being a *girassia* village, had received exceptional good treatment. A tank had been deepened and repaired at the village providing labour for three months in addition to takavi advances of Rs. 400.

The villages on the east of the Vijapur Taluka, *i.e.*, between the latter place and the Sabarmati river, are all held by Thakurs, some on nominal rents, some free; during the early part of the famine, the villagers were supported by the Thakurs. Crops were sown in the bed of the river and others irrigated from wells. Subsequently, those who sought work were accommodated at tank-work at Vijapur and ramp cutting work at Aglod.

Ladol, Jantral, Kaipur.

26th November, 1900.—The first was a very prosperous village and marks the limit of the fertile track; it possessed about 1,000 wells, and during the famine had been able to grow fodder and sell it at very high rates.

Jantral had benefited to the extent of Rs. 14,000 from a charitable grant from Messrs. Harichand Mancharam & Co., Bombay, a rich shop-keeper and former resident and native of this village. All these villages had received suitable takavi advances and a 12-anna revenue collection was anticipated.

Vadnagar.

26th November, 1900.—This village was at one time the head-quarters of a taluka of the same name, but since the opening of the Mehsana-Kheralu Railway, is included in the Kheralu Taluka and is a station on that line. A poor-house had been opened here; 400 being the largest number of inmates. On the day of my visit there were 28, all orphan children. The Kheralu Taluka comprises 107 villages with a population of 98,682. Rs. 1,27,827 had been realised for 1899-1900 out of a revenue demand of Rs. 3,37,169. Out of Rs. 79,322 sanctioned as takavi advances Rs. 53,032 had been paid up to date and Rs. 75,000 had been advanced during the past year from the Visnagar Agricultural Bank. Seven relief-works were sanctioned for this taluka and all taken up; 6 of these are tank works in villages, the 7th, a very large irrigation work, known as the Kadarpur project.

The Kadarpur project.

27th November, 1900.—Leaving Vadnagar on the morning of the 27th and passing the two small hamlets of Lundi and Sidikpur, I visited this project which takes its name from the village of Kadarpur and is $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Kheralu. The object of the project is to collect the water of a catchment area of 20 square miles by bunding up the two branches of the Rupan river by a high embankment $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, extending with natural features to a length of 4 miles, the actual spread of water will cover an area of $4\frac{1}{2}$ square miles with an average depth of 19 feet,

the deepest part being 30 feet. The scheme provides for the irrigation of lands of Sundhia and Umta by a small canal. As a famine relief work it has provided for numbers of people from 145 villages of the Kadi Division, the highest number recorded for one day being 30,000 and the highest daily average being 10,306; work was commenced on 19th February, 1900, and being all earth work, was eminently suited for famine relief. Excellent arrangements for hutting and hospitals were made. The death-rate varied from 12·88 to 62·30 per 1,000 between 19th February and 22nd November, 1900; the highest death-rate being 33·88, 42·38, 62·30 per 1,000 in June, August and November; few, if any, were due to starvation, but chiefly cholera and fever, the latter being most prevalent and fatal in November. Out of an approximate expenditure of Rs. 1,30,520 Babashai, Rs. 67,585 was famine expenditure. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4,64,537 Babashai, and if funds are available, it is anticipated it will be completed in 2½ years and will give a return on the outlay of 6 per cent. In order to obtain metal for the railway and stone for this project, it is proposed to extend the Mehsana-Kheralu Railway to Dabhoda, 6 miles and close to stone quarries in the Idar hills.

Sundhia, Jaska, Upera.

These villages, though sparsely cultivated, appear to have paid 75 per cent. of revenue in 1899 and 1900 and admitted their ability to pay 8-anna revenue this year. Opium is grown in all these villages. Neither the *bajri* nor *toor* crops were as good as in the villages already visited, as the soil was more sandy.

29th November, 1900.—Chacharia, Hirwani Moti, Hirwani Nani, Vithoda, Panchha, Mandali, Machawa.

30th November, 1900.—Merwada, Kohoda, Sidhpur.

The soil of these villages become more sandy and less productive as they near Sidhpur, the condition was much the same as the villages visited on 28th. *Bajri* crops had been fair, *toor* worse, but there was a plentiful supply of wells, chiefly "*katcha*" which had kept up a supply of fodder for the cattle. The large number of buffaloes was particularly striking in these villages, half the revenue demand had been realised from most of these villages, apparently with some squeezing, as there were many complaints of imprisonment and harsh treatment. The majority of inhabitants were of the Kunbi or agricultural class. The working class had found work on the Kadarpur project. Merwada, Kohoda, seem the poorest of these villages; the water in many of the wells being brackish and much land lying waste. Takavi had been given in small quantities to each village. The land, however, was being prepared for wheat, some of which was above ground, the brackish water suiting its cultivation.

* *Bombay Gazetteer* (Baroda).

Sidhpur is a large town and head-quarters of the taluka and is fully described at page 615 of the Baroda *Gazetteer*,* Volume VII. A poor-house had been opened and maintained here. There were only 50 inmates when I visited on 30th, chiefly children. During the worst part of the famine 1,500 were accommodated and fed in the poor-house. The Bohoras of the town had subscribed Rs. 25,000 for charitable relief. The Sidhpur Taluka comprises a total of 80 villages and a population of 107,470. Six out of nine relief works sanctioned were taken up at an approximate cost of Rs. 16,735, and Rs. 41,054 out of Rs. 58,824 sanctioned had been expended on takavi and a total of Rs. 2,23,619 was realised during 1899 and 1900 out of a revenue demand of Rs. 4,59,500. Most of the opium is grown in this taluka and the Darbar had given permission to cultivate 10,000 bighas during the present year. There is apparently no special rate for opium cultivation, the land being assessed according to the soil between a maximum and minimum of 3 rupees and 12 annas per bigha; as Rs. 3 per lb. is obtainable for opium, the cultivators ought to do well.

Sidhpur Taluka.

Bilia, Kamli, Maktupur, Wadwada, Kanisa.

1st December, 1900.—In all these villages the crops had been and were poor; half assessment had generally been collected and there were many complaints of pressure to extort the amount demanded. Takavi had been given in most of these villages and ample work was provided. An union had,

however, been started by the Unjha villagers to resist payment of any assessment last year and the Darbar had to resort to strong measures to assert its authority.

Dethli, Wanasan, Deodarda, Kambwada, Hajipur, Rooni.

2nd December, 1900.—All these villages are along the banks of the Sarswati river, three being *inami* in which the *bhagwati* or payment-in-kind system prevails. Dethli had paid half and Wanasan no assessment last year. The condition of the village, however, was worse than those previously visited. Works had, however, been resorted to at Patan and Sidhpur ; a scheme to bring in water to Patan from Panasan where wells had been dug had failed, but the wells were worked by famine labour and utilised to grow fodder.

Patan, a city of much historical interest and fully described at page 596 of the *Gazetteer*, is the head-quarters of the taluka of the same name, with the sub-taluka of Harij, comprises 195 villages and a population of 165,217. Out of a revenue demand of Rs. 5,66,183, Rs. 2,58,020 were realised during the past year, and out of Rs. 1,58,400 sanctioned for takavi advances, Rs. 1,39,831 had been spent. Out of 24 relief works sanctioned, 22 had been taken up at a cost of Rs. 1,25,685, exclusive of the Ranuj-Chansama Railway earthwork. Of these relief works, the Anawada irrigation scheme and the Ranuj-Chansama Railway are the largest, the Anawada project is to dam the Saraswati river at its narrowest part about four miles from Patan, and divert the water by a canal almost as far as Harij (16 miles). The estimated cost was three lakhs. Rs. 18,000 (of which Rs. 8,083 was under famine expenditure) had been spent The work was started in April, 1900, and provided relief work to 46 villages, the largest number on the works in one day being 11,418 (in June, 1900), and the highest daily average being 483. The Ranuj-Chansama Railway, a distance of eight miles, was begun in April, 1900, and the earthwork is still in progress. It is proposed to extend this line from Chansama south to Beohraji, a place of pilgrimage, 11 miles further west towards Harij. Three large tank relief works were opened at Patan, the largest Goga tank work was still incomplete ; as many as 5,000 were employed on this in one day. Its estimated cost was Rs. 58,000. It is purely a famine relief work, and no return was expected from it.

The Anawada project.

The poor-house was quite a pattern in method and efficiency during the worst of the famine : as many as 3,000 had been accommodated, and on the day of my visit there were 557. The kitchen and hospital in which there were 81 sick were all that could be desired. The books, which were kept most accurately gave every particular as to inmates and expenses.

Patan Taluka.

Matarwardi, Aghar, Wadu, Wagdod, Charup.

3rd December, 1900.—These were all villages on the north of Patan, Wagdod being a typical border village, relief tank work had been opened at Aghar and Wagdod lasting from two to three months, after which labour was found on large tank works at Patan. Wells were scarce, there being only one in Wagdod, and the water brackish. Tank water was sweet. The *bajri* and *jowari* crops had been very poor in the border villages, and there had been much suffering during the past year. Large takavi advances had been given, as also grain and clothes from Indian Charitable Relief Fund. Enquiry pointed to many deaths from cholera and fever, and few, if any, from actual starvation.

Anawada, Wadly, Dharnoj, Bhimasan, Badipur, Khariavdi.

4th December, 1900.—These are all villages on the east towards Harij. Dharnoj being the most easterly, and like the rest, along the eastern border of Kadi, have suffered the most severely from famine. Many of these villages are inhabited by Rabaris, a class who keep and live on their flocks. The country is unproductive for crops, but the large plains, which yield good grass, are suitable for cattle and goats. Want of water and food has killed off all their flocks and herds, and it has only been by large

charitable grants that the people have been kept alive. No rent was realised for 1899-1900.

Borsan, Sankhari, Sojitra, Vasai, Phinchal, Ranuj.

6th December, 1900.—These are villages on the south of Patan, their condition was better than those on the west. Most had paid one-fourth revenue demand for 1899-1900, and had received suitable takavi advances; ample work was provided on the embankment of the Chansama-Ranuj Railway already referred to, and on the Pinchal tank work, although 50 per cent. of the milch cattle had died, about 50 per cent. of plough cattle had been preserved. Where the wells were sweet the crops were fair, but the difference in the crop, in fields side by side, one having brackish water, the other sweet water wells, was most marked.

Vasai and Phincal are in the Chansama Taluka, the most westerly of the Kadi Division, which comprises 111 villages and has a population of 98,347. The border villages of this taluka have been the worst affected by the famine. Out of a revenue demand of Rs. 4,20,983, Rs. 99,643 were only collected in 1899-1900. Fifteen relief works, exclusively of the railway, were taken up at an approximate expenditure of Rs. 35,536, and Rs. 81,389 had been paid away out of a sanctioned grant of Rs. 97,150 for takavi.

I took the train at Manund road and reached Mehsana on the forenoon of the 6th December. This is the headquarters of the Mehsana Taluka. When the public offices, now under construction, at an estimated cost of six lakhs of rupees, are completed, it will be the headquarters of the Kadi Division. It comprises 85 villages and a total population of 92,778. Rupees 1,29,757 were collected in this taluka out of a revenue demand of Rs. 3,48,463. Seven relief works were sanctioned and taken up at an approximate cost of Rs. 15,626, and Rs. 46,003 were expended in takavi advance out of Rs. 52,410.

Nagalpura, Dediasan, Gilosan, Panchot.

7th December, 1900. These are all villages on the west and have suffered under the same disadvantages in the villages of Chansama District. The land was unproductive, wells few, and water in them brackish.

8th December, 1900.—Proceeding by train to Dangerwa from Mehsana I visited Chandreda, Rajpur, Kundal, on my way to Kadi, the present headquarters of the Division and of the taluka of the same name. The crops had been fair in these villages, and good wheat crops are usually grown in the "*bols*," or depressions, when the water is absorbed. Both in these villages as also in those of Borisna Chhatral, which I visited between Kadi and Kalol, the *bairi* crop had been good, the *toor* crop in most villages being irrigated as a summer crop like wheat as a winter crop. These villages had lost 75 per cent. of the milch cattle and 50 per cent. of plough cattle. The Kadi Taluka comprises 122 villages and has a population of 96,782; the usual revenue demand is Rs. 3,81,791, of which only Rs. 1,23,659 had been collected during 1899-1900. Six relief works had been sanctioned and taken up in this taluka. Exclusive of Kadi-Kalol Railway, earthwork at a cost of Rs. 17,000, and Rs. 69,956 had been expended out of Rs. 77,890 sanctioned for takavi advances. The Kalol-Kadi Railway embankment was begun on 25th May, 1900. The whole length of the line will be 12 miles, for nine of which the embankment had been completed. It had afforded relief to all the villages round, but at the time of my visit on 8th December, there were about 700 on the works; work being easily obtained at this time of year in the fields. The maximum number of labourers in one day (24th July, 1900) was 4,167. I visited the poor-house which was opened during the famine at Kadi; there were only 35 inmates at the time of my visit, but as many as 1,000 had been accommodated in one day during the worst part of the famine; the building and arrangements seemed sufficient.

Kalol is the headquarters of the taluka comprising 90 villages and a total population of 97,089. Rupees 1,50,629 had been realised in 1899-1900 out of a revenue demand of Rs. 4,20,098. Fourteen relief works, excluding the two branches of Railway, Kalol-Kadi and Kalol-Vijapur, had been taken up at a total cost of Rs. 20,509, and Rs. 47,602 had been given out of Rs. 56,052 sanctioned as takavi advance.

This taluka on the south and south-west borders on Ahmedabad District and Kathiawar States. Rice is the staple crop of the villages in the south of this taluka, and as this had entirely failed the condition of these villages was bad. Many of the villages on the south-west are inhabited by Mewassis, a sort of cognate tribe who supply many inmates to the Ahmedabad Jail. In former times they were most turbulent and strong and obtained concession of land under peculiar tenure which is respected even now ; they pay assessment only for what they cultivate ; they have so far resented and resisted any attempt of the Darbar to inquire into or survey their lands. As a class they are lazy and thieves and cannot be trusted with takavi advances. The large proportion of minor works in the taluka has been specially provided to give them subsistence of which they have not taken proper advantage ; they have paid none of the revenue demand on these villages in 1899-1900.

Borisna, Serisa, Palsana, Dhanoj, Sertha, Rathod, Arsodia.

9th December, 1900.—Two of these were half Mewassi, half Khalsa villages ; the Khalsa villages seemed fairly prosperous, having realised fair crops and paid about half revenue demand ; prosperity seemed due to good wells, Sertha having as many as 139. They had received takavi advances during last year. The railway embankment had provided ample relief.

9th December, 1900.—Returned to Baroda.

No. 162.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3364, *dated Baroda, the* 21*st February*, 1901.

I have the honour to forward a brief diary of my tour in the Amreli Division of the Baroda State, in connection with famine operations carried out during the year 1899–1900, and to submit the following report.

2. The Amreli Division comprises His Highness the Gaekwar's possessions in Kathiawar, it covers an area of about 1,189 square miles and is divided into nine talukas with 302 villages and a population of 176,687. The approximate revenue demand in ordinary years is Rs. 8,79,716, while that realised during the past two years, St. 1955/1898–99, St. 1956/1899–1900, has been respectively Rs. 8,48,287 and Rs. 1,88,764.

3. Of the nine talukas, I visited three, viz., Dhari, Kodinar and Okhamandal, which have been the worst affected by famine, and inspected 65 villages between 7th and 25th January.

4. So far this Division may be treated as a whole, but, as the circumstances and condition of the Okhamandal Taluka are widely different from the others in this Division, it will be more convenient to refer to it separately, and the remarks and figures that now follow allude to the Amreli Division exclusive of Okhamandal.

5. For the Amreli Division 98 relief works were sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 12,18,780, of which 63 have been taken up at an approximate expenditure of Rs. 8,69,466, and the percentage of the population on relief works has been approximately 14·12. The amount sanctioned for takavi advances was Rs. 3,59,178, of which Rs. 3,00,392 have been expended. No poor-houses were opened, but gratuitous and charitable relief was afforded on the works, and Rs. 54,000 as a grant from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has been distributed through suitable agencies.

Road-making and repairs have found the majority of relief works : the country is generally unsuitable for tank-making ; where possible, some have been excavated and old tanks deepened. Masonry wells have been sunk at State expense for irrigation and metal has been dug and laid on roads and stacked for future use.

6. The average rainfall in this Division is 23·50 inches, and 7·21 fell in 1899 and 29·63 in 1900; the latter fell during July and August at one time and was not followed by the usual autumn rain in September and October with the result that, although an average *bajri* crop was generally obtained, *jowar* and cotton failed, wells, however, filled, and where cultivators had bullocks, have been used. Mortality, however, among cattle was not less than 60 per cent.; in a number of the villages none were saved. As regards the people, practically none died from starvation. Cholera in April and May, followed by a very severe type of fever, has been the cause of all the deaths: fever commenced just after the rains and continues now. None of the villages had escaped it.

7. Judging from personal inspection and information placed at my disposal, I am of opinion that the Amreli division has been well provided with relief works and that the State famine administration and organisation has been judiciously and efficiently carried out by the Subah Diwan Bahadur, V. M. Samarth.

8. As regards the prospects for 1901, it is improbable that more than half of the revenue demand will be realised, liberal remissions will have to be made and relief works will have to be provided during February and assistance given to the cultivators to purchase bullocks and seeds. The people have appreciated and are grateful for the help given, and I have every confidence that His Highness the Gaekwar will take suitable measures for their further relief as occasion arises.

Okhamandal.

9. I reached Dwarka on 21st by steamer from Verawal, and during my stay up to 27th, I visited the greater part of the district and works, inspected 24 out of the 44 villages. To realise its condition it must be mentioned that the past year was practically the third year of famine in Okhamandal, and that relief works were first started in April, 1898, and continued till 9th October, 1900. The taluka has an area of 280 miles, and a total population of 26,909. Five thousand of which are Waghirs and cognate tribes, who, though now forced by circumstances to take to agriculture, are bad cultivators and unprofitable subjects. In ordinary years the expense of the administration has exceeded the revenue by about one lakh of rupees. That realised for the past three years has aggregated Rs. 66,947, against a demand of Rs. 93,761. During the same period Rs. 4,52,373 have been expended on relief works out of a sanction of Rs. 5,68,283. This has not only been a severe drain on the resources of the State, but has practically exhausted all the projects it is possible to take up in this taluka. Under takavi advances Rs. 1,48,210 have been paid out of a sanction of Rs. 2,32,394. During the three years 5·2, 17·7, 13·7 represent the percentage of population on relief works, while in more than one day during the past year approximately half the population has been on relief works.

10. The average daily expenditure for the three years on relief works was about Rs. 490-10-3.

11. Three kinds of relief has been provided by the State:—

(i.) Road-making and repairs.

(ii.) Tank-making and repairs.

(iii.) Takavi advances.

With the exception of two main roads leading to Jamnagar and Porbandar, those constructed serve villages and would not have been undertaken except as purely relief works; of the tanks few hold water for more than six months, and cannot be used for irrigation.

Takavi advances have been given under three heads:—

(i.) Seed grains, Bullocks, Wells. } under usual rules.

(ii.) Maintenance, under special rules.

(iii.) Advances to Waghir class, under special rules.

Maintenance takavi was somewhat a novel experiment; it was commenced in March, 1900, and lasted for seven months; it was introduced owing to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour for the wage and had for its object the reduction of the large expenditure in Public Works Department under relief works; it was granted to all cultivators, including Waghir, to whom it was granted on the security of their *salami* lands, sale in default being subject to reference to the Resident. The amount was based on the wage that could be earned on the relief works and averaged Rs. 5 for a man and his wife, ranging up to Rs. 15 for families, and the recipients were at once struck off the relief works; payment extended over twelve years, the first instalment being due in 1902-1903.

Takavi to Waghirs as a class under special rules, payment to extend over twenty years, though sanction was never granted, as final sanction came too late to be of any use.

12. An attempt was also made to reduce the numbers on relief works by transporting labourers by sea to Porbandar, and then by rail to the relief works in Amreli and Naosari. Some 500 were induced to go, but the experiment was found too costly and was abandoned.

13. A poor-house, supported by private charity, was opened at Dwarka, but it does not appear to have been much resorted to and was closed. A sum of Rs. 400 was expended by the State on this account, private charitable relief was soon exhausted; under the Darbar Famine Code children were fed on the relief works.

14. A grant of Rs. 69,000 from the Indian Famine Fund was distributed throughout the taluka under the supervision of the Assistant Resident. This was an inestimable boon; bullocks and seed were provided, and extreme cases of want were relieved.

15. The rainfall of this taluka in an ordinary year is about 25: 35·64, 7·18, 1·54 rain fell respectively during the past three years; 18·10 fell during 1900, but it came six weeks late, and fell inside 20 days in August. Cultivators were obliged to keep to the works till the rain fell, and again could not sow till the land had dried a little. After the sowing no more rain fell, hence all the rain crops, such as *bajri*, *jowar*, practically failed, and the produce realised cannot be estimated at more than a 2-anna crop throughout Okhamandal.

16. It has not been possible to obtain any accurate return of mortality among the people, but it has been heavy. Many deaths must have occurred from starvation or its effects; during May cholera raged in most of the villages, Rajpura, Dhrasanwell, Katomba, Baura Mota, and Dwarka suffering most severely. Cholera was followed in August by a very severe and fatal type of fever; not a single village escaped it, though abated, it still continues; in some villages I visited two were carried off daily. The after effects leave the sufferers prostrate and debilitated, and ordinary medicines seem to have no effect. Mortality among cattle has not been less than 90 per cent.

17. All these causes have reduced the people to a very low condition, and, with bad crops, they have no immediate chance of improvement. In several villages I visited on the south and east, the people are subsisting on grass seeds which are crushed and made into a kind of bread. Many are too debilitated to earn anything on relief works.

18. The question of what relief measures should now be adoped is one of some difficulty. Road-making and repairs are still available for those who can work, and these can afford temporary relief, but are of little utility to the State or the district, and it would appear more advantageous if the money was spent in well-sinking, where sweet water can be obtained, under State agency, employing village labour; also in assisting the cultivators in purchasing bullocks and seed grain. Scarcity and famine have, of late years, visited Okhamandal with distressing regularity, and it would be too sanguine to expect that it can even approximately revert to its former prosperity; but we must continue to hope that seasonable rain in 1901, with such assistance as is possible, will improve the condition of the unfortunate people.

19. Okhamandal is looked upon rather as a penal settlement by the officials of the State; none wish to serve there, and those who serve are anxious to get away. His Highness the Gaekwar has never visited the place, and has to rely often on not wholly disinterested information; were it otherwise, it is probable more judgment and sympathy would have been exercised in the conduct of the famine administration in this taluka. This report will, however, I trust, show that His Highness has accepted his responsibilities in a liberal and charitable spirit, and has deservedly earned the gratitude of his subjects in Okhamandal, and that local officials have worked intelligently to carry out the relief measures organised.

20. I attach a map of Amreli and Okhamandal districts, showing, as far as possible, the different relief works, and their position.

Enclosure in No. 162.

DIARY OF TOUR IN AMRELI DIVISION, BARODA STATE.

Leaving Baroda on 7th January, I reached my first camp at Dhari on the 8th.

Dhari is the head-quarters of the taluka of the same name, and borders on the west on the hills of the Gir or forest hills of the Junagadh State. The soil is mostly black cotton, and in and around Dhari the trap rock is very near the surface. The country undulates in low stony hills and deep *nullahs*.

The taluka contains 64 villages with a total population of 29,296, and has a revenue demand of Rs. 1,43,030, out of which Rs. 22,830 was realised during 1899. There were altogether 18 relief works sanctioned for this taluka at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,85,045. Of these 10 were taken up at an expenditure of Rs. 2,63,458. Of these 5 were metalled roads of total length of 58½ miles. Up to the end of November approximately Rs. 64,508 were given in takavi. *Bajri* and cotton are the staple crops of this taluka. The *bajri* crop in the villages round Dhari varied from 14 to 8 annas. Every other crop had failed owing to the want of late rains. There was plenty of water in the wells which varied from 30 to 40 feet in depth; where they were used for irrigation, the wheat promised well. The majority of the people of this taluka subsist on their cattle, and as it borders on the Gir or forest, when grazing is used up in the taluka, the cattle are driven to the Gir. Seventy per cent., at least, of cattle died during the past year, hence large numbers were thrown on relief works. In some of the villages hand-ploughs had been used. There was no reluctance to go on relief works, and even religious ascetics had resorted to them.

9th January.—I visited the villages marginally noted, and the Dhari-Ingorala road. All these are in the vicinity of this work, and the villagers had freely resorted to it. Cholera and fever were responsible for the majority of deaths, which in Khisa and Devala had been 109 and 233 out of a population of 785 and 537, respectively.

Khisa, Dewala, Sarsia.

10th January.—I visited the villages marginally noted on the east of the Dhari-Dalkhania road, which had been resorted to by all the villagers. The earth-work of the Dhari-Dalkhani road, a distance of 9½ miles, has been completed as far as the Baroda border;* metalling has yet to be stacked and laid on, and some culverts have to be made. It is not yet fit for wheel traffic, as in many places rocks have been left. This is reported to be due to want of skilled labour. This, however, seems scarcely a reasonable excuse, as in some parts the rocks have been broken, and a charge of dynamite in most places would have effected all that was required. Rupees 84,100 have been spent up to end of December, 1900, and approximately a daily average of 3,575 labourers have been employed, the highest number in one day being 6,084.

Kubda, Govindpura, Ramghad, Sakhpur, Dalkhania.

* Four miles beyond Dalkhania.

The villages visited to-day all seemed in a wretched condition. There had been little cultivation, and I passed through large tracts of uncut grass, which, in ordinary years, would have been cut by now. Cholera and fever had carried off many, and the survivors were too debilitated to cut it, and no cattle to eat it. Dalkhania, where I had my camp, is on the new road. It is a half Khalsa, and half Girasia village.

11*th January*.—I visited the villages marginally noted on the west of the Dhari-Dalkhania road. The first four belong to the Chachai Girasia and his nephew. All were in a deserted condition, and little or no cultivation had been carried out. The villages border on the Gir. The grass crop was plentiful and uncut.

Kotda, Pania, Chachai, Ambagala, Nuthiapur, Nakki (deserted).

12*th and* 13*th January*.—I marched through 32 miles of Junagadh Gir to Ghantwad, a Baroda border village on the south of the Gir, and the commencement of the Kodinar Taluka, the most southern of the Amreli Division. Roads had been made by the Baroda Darbar to its limits at each side of the Junagadh Gir; the intervening 28 miles is, as a connecting road between the two talukas of Dhari and Kodinar to Amreli, of much importance to the Darbar. It does not, however, affect Junagadh Darbar, who up to now have peristently adopted "a dog in the manger" policy of neither keeping this road through the Gir in order or allowing the Baroda Darbar to do it.

14*th January*.—During my halt at Ghantwad I visited the villages marginally noted. Ghantwad is of some importance as a border village, as well as the junction of the Simasa-Ghantwad road (to be continued east to Harmaria and Junaghad frontier) and Ghantwad-Kodinar road. The river Singora runs under the village, and it is proposed to run a dam across the river at the narrowest part at the village, and by diverting the water by a canal along the banks to irrigate about 5,000 acres of land now lying fallow. The project has been examined, and recommended by Mr. Whiting, C.E.; the cost is estimated at 1¼ lakh of rupees, and is expected to give a return of 9 per cent. This, as well as a project to impound water and make a large reservoir at Pichvi,* estimated to irrigate 6,000 acres at an estimated cost of 3 lakhs of rupees, are kept as alternative relief works if necessity arises.

Kantala, Advada, Arnej, Girdevli, Chidivav.

* Seven miles east of Ghantwad.

The Ghantwad-Simasa road has been completed and metalled during the past year.† At Simasa it joins the Junaghad road from Prachi, a place of pilgrimage. Sanction has been given by the Darbar to continue this road east *viâ* Harmaria to Junaghad frontier to meet another road made by the latter Darbar from Una, and when completed will be of great convenience to Junaghad but none to Baroda, but its construction is delayed pending a practical reciprocation by Junaghad in making the Prachi-Pedhavada road, connecting the latter and Kodinar and affording a through communication from Kodinar to Veraval.

† A distance of 7 miles.

The Kodinar Taluka comprises 74 villages, and has a population of 38,784.

Out of Rs. 4,39,879 sanctioned for this taluka, eight works have been completed at an expenditure of Rs. 2,77,670, and Rs. 83,777 approximately has been given as takavi. The ordinary revenue demand is approximately Rs. 1,46,462, while that realised during 1899-1900 (St. 1956) was Rs. 16,551.

Five* of the relief works were new roads of a total length of 45 miles, costing Rs. 2,75,258, which gave a daily average expenditure of Rs. 942 and afforded relief to a daily average of about 10,000 people and an approximate of 29 per cent. of the population of this taluka.

*(1) Kodinar-Dolasa Road.
(2) Kodinar-Velan Road.
(3) Ronaj-Pichvi Road.
(4) Simasi-Ghantwad Road.
(5) Kodinar-Pedhavada Road.

The staple crops are *bajri*, *jowar*, and cotton. The former had been fair, but cotton had failed for want of late rain, while the *jowar* was destroyed by what is known as the "*bhor*" wind. Some nine villages on the Gir or its

frontier had received less rain than the centre and southern villages, and had suffered more, but the condition of all the villages visited was much the same.

No poor-house had been opened, but charitable relief was given on the works, all of which were in easy distance of the villages concerned.

Fifty per cent. of cattle in this taluka had died. No deaths were attributed to starvation, but cholera followed by fever had carried off numbers. Plague still existed in Kodinar village.

The class of cultivators in this taluka are not as industrious as in others, and irrigation is done from wells worked with the Persian wheel.

15*th January.*—I visited the villages noted below :—

Nana Sangada.	Shedhaya.
Mota do.	Arilia.
Jagatia.	Nagadla.

Bhandaria, Govindpura; Kareda, Mitiaj Runaj, Kadodra, Chhachar, Sarkhadi.

16*th and* 17*th January.*—I visited the villages marginally noted.

At Sarkhadi I enquired into a long-pending dispute between the Darbar and Sarkhadi Girasias.

18*th January.*—I visited the villages named below :—

Damli.	Kodinar.
Devli.	Kadvasan, and
	Pedhavada.

19*th*, 20*th*, 21*st, and* 22*nd January.*—I marched through Junaghad territory to Veraval and left by steamer on the 20th for Dwarka (Okhamandal); arriving on the night of 21st, and the 22nd was passed in discussing matters connected with famine work and interviewing officials.

23*rd January,*—I went along the Dwarka-Wachu road which joins the main road to Porbandar, and has been completed up to Wachu during the past year ; has a total length of six miles, and Rs. 12,480-15-7 have been expended on it. Culverts had, however, still to be made, and the late rains had much damaged it.

I visited the villages as per margin. All were reduced to the lowest state of poverty and distress, especially was this the case in the villages of Dhrevad Old and New, and Lowrali. The villagers had frequented the adjacent relief works, had taken advantage of maintenance takavi, and had received help from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. They had practically lost all their cattle, and were at the time subsisting on jungle grass seeds, which they crushed and made into bread. *Bajri* had given about a 2-anna crop, *jowar* had failed and castor oil crop was very poor.

Bardea, Wachu, Gorinja, Dhrevad Old, Dhrevad New, Lowrali, Dhinki, Bhavda Mota, Korada.

23*rd January.*—I visited the villages marginally noted on the Dwarka-Aramra road. Warvala is one of the largest and most prosperous villages in Okha, but is now in as bad a way as others. Makanpur and Mojab-Waghir villages were reduced to the last straits, keeping alive on grass-seeds. Gadechi is partly a Waghir village and mortgaged to the Beyt temple and had been kept going. It had lost over 100 from fever alone. Kalianpur had a very severe visitation of cholera. The country between Gadechi and Mowassa usually yields good crops.

Warvala, Makanpur, Mojab, Gadechi, Kalianpur, Mowassa.

24*th January.*—I visited the villages marginally noted. The condition of all these was much the same. Cholera had been very bad at Dhrasanwell and Rajpura, followed, as at other villages, by severe fever. Goriali, usually the most flourishing of Waghir villages, was reduced to the same state. Petty repairs on the road was being carried on which gave relief to all that came.

Dhrasanwell, Rangasar, Nagnath, Goriali, Samlasar, Rajpur, Positra.

25th January.—I visited the villages of Mulvasar and Charakla along the road lately constructed, which were the only two villages in a distance of 12 miles. Better rain had fallen in and around Mulvasar and it is one of the best villages in Okha. An 8-anna crop of *bajri* had been realised and the condition was generally better than any other villages I visited.

Charakla was the reverse, and like Lowarali, 2 miles south, was reduced to the last stage of want.

The condition of the roads constructed as famine relief is as follows :—

Aramra to Samlasar.—Has been metalled throughout, and is used for traffic.

Aramra to Adatara.—The bridge works across the creek have been swept away during the rain ; it was left incomplete for want of further sanction. What was done has been destroyed and the money wasted.

Dwarka to Wachu.—Requires culverts.

Samlasia to Charakla viâ Malwara.—Metal has been laid throughout ; requires culverts and rolling, which was postponed till the rains, but not carried out.

Dwarka-Dhola to Molwasr.—Earth-work has been completed ; no metalling laid on half the distance.

Warwala-Vasai to Gadechi.—Has been metalled throughout, but not rolled, and is unfit for traffic.

Dwarka to Swantalao.—Under progress.

The heavy rain, 18·10 inches in 15 days, has breached and injured most of these roads ; repairs are going on, and some 400 labourers are now employed at ordinary rates ; all seeking work are taken on.

Dhrewad Charakla to Tupni road, for which sanction has been obtained, will be commenced at once to afford relief to the villages along the east, which are in a very bad way.

Approximately 78 miles of road have been made between April, 1898, to October, 1900. Fifty-three and three-fourths of miles of old roads gave relief in repairs.

There are still five roads of a total length of 17 miles which can be constructed.

Through the courtesy of the Commandant, Mr. Harrison, I inspected the Okhamandal battalion on the 26th January and am able to repeat the congratulations given last year on the smart appearance of this battalion. The Thana and Police work this battalion is called on to do was specially severe during the past year. These duties, as well as sickness, prevented more than 80 rank and file being present on parade.

See this office letter No. 3981, dated 3rd March, 1900, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

On 23rd I received a deputation of State officials and leading men of Dwarka to express their sorrow and condolence on the death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The grief seems to have been most genuine. Public offices and shops were closed directly the news reached, and all classes were deeply affected.

I returned to Baroda on 30th January, 1901.

No. 163.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 19,959, *dated Baroda, the* 1*st November*, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 4421 I.A., dated 6th October, 1900, regarding certain adverse criticisms by a correspondent

to the *Times of India* in its issue of 14th September, 1900, on the famine administration in the Baroda villages of Bilasia and Kathwara of the Dehgam Taluka.

2. A reply (copy enclosed) to these criticisms has since appeared in the issue of the same newspaper of the 5th October, by a Baroda Famine official, and also a rejoinder, and as I have had access to and been able to examine the statements on which the Baroda reply is based, I am able to record that the facts and figures given are substantially correct. Two tracings are attached, one showing the relative position of the two villages of Bilasia and Kathwara, with Ahmedabad and adjacent villages of that district, the other showing the whole of the Kadi Division, and more particularly the Dehgam Taluka in which the two villages are situated, and the relative positions of Dehgam and other villages where minor and major relief works were opened, also a statement A showing the progress of relief works* in Dehgam Taluka from October, 1899, to end of August, 1900.

* Eleven of these works were completed and closed by the end of February, 1900, when the large work, Kalol-Vijapur Railway was commenced.

3. In reply to the rejoinder by the special correspondent in the issue of the *Times of India*, dated 5th October, from information obtained, I am able to give the following explanation :—

(i.) The comparative mortality in cattle in the two villages of Bilasia and Kathwara is not remarkable, inasmuch as cattle do not die in the same proportion in villages, but it has been found that in villages where the number of cattle are few greater exertion is made to save the indispensable minimum.

(ii.) In the village of Kathwara 50 per cent. of the area cultivated in the year before this famine, not taking into account lands under grass or fallow, has already been cultivated, and it is anticipated that the cold weather cultivation under wells, which are very numerous in this village, will bring up the total area under cultivation to 75 per cent. It appears, moreover, that unirrigated lands prepared for cultivation last year and not sown for want of rain required reploughing only to a small extent, and that this is the case is shown from the fact in the Dehgam Taluka in which these two villages are situated, more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the area cultivated in the year previous to the famine is now reported to be under cultivation, hence it is anticipated that the effect of the loss of cattle during the past year is likely to be more felt next year.

(iii.) The absence of information as to rates, wages, etc., in the Ahmedabad District prevents comparison with the rates, etc., sanctioned in the Baroda villages, but when it is known that the Baroda villagers were, as far as possible, excluded from Ahmedabad District Relief Works, the number who could have resorted to the latter clandestinely must necessarily have been comparatively small. No doubt the difference in value of the wage when paid in British or Baroda currency, as well as the comparative proximity of relief work to a Baroda village would account for the preference of works in Ahmedabad District, but the records of the State Public Works show that no less than 2,360 villagers from Ahmedabad District resorted to the Dehgam Relief Works.

(iv.) The records of the Dehgam poor-house show that the daily average number of persons gratuitously relieved in Dehgam poor-house during the months of May, June, July, August, and September was respectively 85, 165, 309, 191, 233 and may be accepted against the statement of the village Mukhi that there was no poor-house or that none were taken there.

(v.) In the matter of *tacavi* advances the Darbar has shown liberality as far as is possible, and from information received from responsible officials, whom I have closely questioned, every effort has been made to ensure the money reaching those to whom it was granted. If, however, irregularities are possible in the adjacent British district, as is evidenced by the enquiries to be instituted by the Government of Bombay, they are equally possible in a Native State, and until specific cases of defalcation are traced and proved, it is impossible to accept general statements as made by the correspondent.

(vi.) As regards the proportion of revenue collected in the two villages, the proportion was ¼ in Kathwara and ⅕ in Bilasia—in the first village there are 175 wells and in the second 15. There was a considerable amount of irrigated cultivation, and the collections appear to have been made from substantial ryots who were quite able to pay.

4. A famine in Baroda has not been known to the oldest inhabitant, hence neither His Highness the Gaekwar nor his officials have had previous experience of such a calamity. This inexperience, added to native apathy, is, no doubt, responsible for delay in opening relief works in Baroda and Kadi Divisions. The villages in these are interlaced with villages in British districts, and in the early days of the famine, no doubt, the Gaekwari villagers, for the reasons already mentioned in paragraph 2, resorted to relief works in British district. Suitable works were, however, promptly provided by the Darbar in response to representations, and deportation of the Gaekwari villagers arranged for; as an instance I may specially mention the opening of the works on the Miagham-Sinor Railway, Motipura Quarries, Kosamba and Velachha Road in the vicinity of the Broach District, where some 4,000 Gaekwari villagers were deported and provided with work. Conditions maintaining in two outlying peculiarly situated Baroda villages can scarcely be accepted as a criterion of famine administration over the whole of the Baroda State, while facts and figures show that the statement given by the special correspondent is much exaggerated. His Highness the Gaekwar has been fully alive to his responsibilities, and has, as far as I have been able to judge, made every effort to relieve distress in his State. These efforts have been well seconded by intelligent officials, and when the history of the Baroda famine administration comes to be written, a culpable negligence to provide for its subjects in a time of severe famine will, I feel sure, not find place in its shortcomings.

Enclosure in No. 163.

FAMINE RELIEF IN BARODA TERRITORY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES OF INDIA."

SIR,—In your issue of the 14th instant is published a sensational account written by your special correspondent, headed "After the Rains; Scenes in Baroda territory. Effects of the Gaekwar's policy." Your correspondent, it appears, visited three villages near the town of Ahmedabad in the Ahmedabad district, and two isolated Gaekwari villages adjoining; and comparing the condition of the latter with that of the former, he has passed a wholesale condemnation on the famine administration of the Baroda State. As one of the officials of the State who is in some measure responsible for famine administration, I trust that you will allow me to point out that your correspondent's facts and figures regarding the condition of the Gaekwari villages are incorrect, and that, whether willingly or unwillingly, he has been cruelly unjust to both the famine administration of the Baroda Government and the officials connected with it. Of the three villages in the Ahmedabad district selected, Ghoraj is a talukdari village, Saispur Inami, and Naroda a purely *Sarkari* village. Naroda, he admits is a strong village possessing 100 irrigation wells, and yet he selects it for comparison with two Gaekwari villages, Kathwara and Bilasia, which form "a tiny island in the sea of British India" remote from the main portion of the Baroda territory. He states that "he is assured by those who know the (Ahmedabad) district thoroughly, in many villages remote from the towns, houses, deserted during the period of the greatest scarcity, have been de-roofed, timbers torn out for fuel, and the unfortunate occupants have returned from the relief-work only to find their homes dismantled." He has not, however, chosen one of these villages for examination, and "point the moral and adorn a tale." As regards the Gaekwari villages of Kathwara and Bilasia, nearly all the facts and figures that he gives are wrong. In Kathwara he states that there are 600 houses, out of which 250 have been abandoned. There are only 505 houses in the

village, of which only 19 have been abandoned during the famine. He puts down the mortality among the villagers at 300. The village registers show a mortality of 123 only. We have not been favoured with any information as regards the mortality or deserted houses in the village of Naroda ; and, perhaps, it is intended that we are to suppose that this necessary feature of famine is entirely absent in that village. The plough cattle in Kathwara left after the famine is given as 120 out of 600. The correct figures are 202 out of 627. As regards the milch cattle there has been wholesale destruction throughout Guzerat, and there is little to choose between British and Gaekwari villages in this respect. The crop yield of Kathwara, last season, the correspondent estimates at 300 maunds of jowar. The village contains 175 wells, and the outturn of crop was 1,817 maunds. He states the cultivable area of the village to be 12,000 bighas, of which 8,000 are occupied, and that the village contains 50 houses of Pattidars. The total area of the village is only 8,031 bighas, of which 5,427 bighas—3,586 *Sarkari* and 1,843 Barkhali or Inami—are occupied, and there are 83 houses of Pattidars. Not one-fourth of the occupied area, as the correspondent states, but three-fourths will be cultivated ; a proportion which, it is hoped, will not be very much less than that reached even in the model village of Naroda. The *tacavi* granted in this village amounted to Rs. 385, and not Rs. 300 as stated by the correspondent. The figures quoted by him for Bilasia are equally inaccurate. To save space I shall put them in a tabular form :—

———	Actual.	As given by the Correspondent
Number of houses deserted during the famine.	13 out of 152	Half deserted.
Number of plough bullock saved	62 out of 99	40 out of 200.
Outturn of produce during the famine year.	398 maunds; the village contains 15 wells.	Nothing mentioned.
Area under occupation	965 bighas	1,600 bighas.
Area sown up to date	496 „	200 „
Tacavi granted	Rs. 250 last year, and Rs. 171	Rs. 20.

Next as regards revenue collection. It is interesting to note how differently the same story impresses the mind of your correspondent, when it is told by the British ryots, from what it does when told by Gaekwari ryots. In the former case, the stories are received with great suspicion and incredulity ; in the latter case with great readiness, apparently as being in consonance with his pre-conceived ideas of the fitness of things. In his letter of the 12th instant, speaking of the British village of Saispur, he says—" I give the figures with some reserve because your village officer has a large and generous method, not always consonant with strict accuracy." Even in the case of the two Gaekwari villages he lays down the general principle correctly enough. " In these days," he says, " it is necessary to regard with some scepticism general complaints of harsh measures in the collection of land revenue, and even specific instances should not be unreservedly accepted unless fully corroborated ;" but when it comes to the application, it is another matter. The Gaekwari ryots come forward, " so to speak, in open Darbar at Kathwara and Bilasia, and without axe to grind or selfish purpose to serve ;" and, therefore, he finds it difficult to believe they narrated ficitious stories of illegal and oppressive practices to realise the assessment. At Naroda the British village, when the ryots told stories of the Mamlatdar having thrown the furniture in the streets, until the wealthier inhabitants guaranteed the amount, they got little encouragement to proceed with their stories, apparently because they did not tell them in " open Darbar," whatever that might mean, and had " axe to grind or selfish purpose to serve." At Bilasia, Sona is detained for some hours in the village Chowra, or place of assembly of elders, where all business connected with the village is

transacted by the village officers, until she found security for the payment of revenue; and this is represented as a terrible insult. The Vahivatdar of the Dehgam taluka was Mr. Govind Shridhar Apte, a graduate of the Bombay University, who has recently been transferred from Dehgam to Dwarka as Naib Suba; and the moment he saw the articles of your correspondent, he wrote indignantly denying the allegations made against him, and requesting that a thorough enquiry might be made and matters cleared up. The Suba of the Kadi Division is enquiring into the matter. The facts as regards the revenue collection of the villages are these:—

Out of the land revenue demand of Rs. 7,947 in Kathwara Rs. 2,173, or a little over one-fourth, was collected, and in Bilasia out of a demand of Rs. 1,738 a little over one-fifth was realised. The two villages contain 175 and 15 irrigation wells, respectively. Two men who were ringleaders of a combination had to be sent to the civil jail for contumacious refusal to pay the assessment, and were speedily liberated on arranging for payment. All the five persons who complained to your correspondent have been ascertained to be persons who were well able to pay and obstinately withheld payment. Gagal Kishor could not have been asked to pay more, if, as stated by him, he had already paid Rs. 19; for the December instalment being 8 annas in the rupee, he had to pay only Rs. 18. He could have produced the notice, if any, served on him. As for the tobacco and leaves and the large bill for rice and other provisions supplied, the Vahivatdar, Gobind Shridhar Apte, B.A., does not chew betel leaves or use tobacco. He stayed in Kathwara for two or three days, and he could not possibly have consumed betel leaves and tobacco and rice and sugar costing Rs. 10 or Rs. 12. It is true that Gagal was taken to Dehgam for non-payment of revenue, but it is not true that he was not given food there. He has made a written statement, in which he says that he was confined for about 24 hours, during which time he himself refused to have the first meal, while the second meal was offered to him duly, and he had it.

The story of Nathan Jehangir is altogether false. He has paid nothing at all. The amount he owed was only Rs. 3-6, and not Rs. 40, and he has not paid anything. He is a village servant drawing Rs. 4-8 per month. The story of the *japti* and buffalo relates to occurrences of the previous year, that is, previous to the famine year, Samvat 1955. His buffalo was sold in Samvat 1955, and he then parted with his lands to a Bania and some relations of his.

Ragha Bhika has no tale of oppression to narrate, nor have the two mentioned above. It is true that he had to sell one of his bullocks, but he did it of his own choice. His bullock was not taken by Government in *japti* and sold. It appears that he himself sold his bullock, because he had a sufficient number of cattle with him. Even at present he possesses three bullocks, two buffaloes, and a calf. He has complained that he had applied for several times for *tacavi*, but failed to get it. It is possible that when he was so well off, his claim was not preferred to that of other agriculturists who more badly wanted help.

The woman, Sona, says nothing about mal-treatment definitely. Her vague statement that the revenue peons searched her house and beat her is unreliable. She positively says now that she was not ill-treated. She was only told to sit in the Chowra, and was allowed to go after some time, as the Mukhi stood security for her. She says that a *Saheb*, with a *topee* on, was sitting in the Chowra, and while she was passing by she was called and asked some questions by Narsi Bhat, to which she replied as above.

Shanker Ranchhod denies all about the story of oppression. He says he was sent to Dehgam with peons, and that after going a short distance he came back in custody, and arranged about paying half the demand at once.

The two men of Bilasia are, as already stated, ringleaders. Dhira Perma is a Girasia and Jesung a Barot. Both sold their ornaments and paid up the instalments.

From the above it will be seen how readily your correspondent has swallowed all the stories told him by the villagers. In the case of the British village of Naroda he says that, considering the area of cultivation under wells, if 14 per cent. of the revenue could not be realised without pressure, then the conclusion is warranted that pressure was necessary and proper. But in the case of the Gaekwari village of Kathwara, containing a larger area of irrigated cultivation, he would not draw the same conclusion. I will give yet another instance of your correspondent's method of dealing out equal justice.

On his way to Saispur your correspondent sees a dead body, on which two vultures were having a filthy feast. Though the body is found in British territory, far away from the Gaekwari limits, still it is described as that of "some poor wanderer from across the borders probably." The salving of conscience by putting in the last halting word "probably" does credit to his sense of justice; his feelings, however, soon get the better of it, and he gives free play to his imagination and takes it for granted that the man must have been a Gaekwari subject, and thrills us with the pathetic narration of how he, in a tottering condition, left his home for seeking refuge at last in the great city (Ahmedabad, it is presumed) and dying within sight of the goal, where charity "has been extended to thousands neglected by their own rulers." It is quite possible, however, he was a Gaekwari subject; for I personally know of cases of persons from neighbouring British villages in a dying state coming up to the Baroda city and have sent them to the poor-house or the hospital. Your correspondent says that the poorer classes in the villages of Kathwara and Bilasia sought refuge in British generosity and went to the relief works in British territory. His informants told him—"The *Hukam, Saheb*, had gone round that *garib lok* from Baroda territory were not to be employed on British relief works. So our people pretended to come from Government villages." The villages of Kathwara and Bilasia, as already stated, form "a tiny island in a sea of British villages." They are only 8 miles from Ahmedabad City, and all their business relations are with that city. In ordinary times the labouring poor go to that city for work, or for selling grass or fuel. Is it any wonder, then, if they went either to Ahmedabad City during famine times or to the relief work opened at Naroda within 3 miles of their houses? The British Authorities had made it a rule not to admit Gaekwari "*garib lok*." Could not the officers in charge of the work at Naroda have detected people coming from a distance of 3 miles and turned them back?

In the Dehgam Taluka, ten minor works were opened at first for relief, two each in Bahiel and Dehgam, and one each in Sampa, Chhala, Vasna Rathode, Mahudia, Mota Isanpur, and Dharisna. The minor works going on in Mahudia, Isanpur, Dehgam, Vasna Rathode, and Bahiel were within reasonable distance (on an average of 10 miles) for the people of Kathwara and Bilasia to go to. These works continued from the middle of October till the middle of January, when the major works were ordered to be opened. The major work for this taluka was the Kalol-Vijapur Railway, which work continued up to the end of July. The minor works were re-opened in July. This will show that there was no want of relief works for the people of Kathwara and Bilasia, if they chose to avail themselves of them. I am sure your correspondent cannot mean to say that every village must have its separate relief work. If any of the people of these two villages, in spite of the facilities given to them in their own territory, resorted to British relief works close at hand, how is this to be prevented? People from foreign villages have also come to the Baroda relief works. From the records of the Public Works Department it appears that 2,366 foreigners at various times took advantage of the relief works opened in Dehgam alone, with its Petha Mahal of Atarsumbha.

The principle of village relief as enunciated in the Famine Code is that people who want employment may be sent to relief works; that those who are unfit for work, but who can go out of their houses, may be sent to the poor-houses; and those only who are unfit for work and cannot be moved to the poor-houses have to be given village doles.

These principles were fully followed in regard to these two villages. A poor-house was opened at the Dehgam centre. The circle Inspectors and Talaties were engaged in inspecting the villages, and they have actually sent up twelve persons from Kathwara and twenty-six from Bilasia to the Dehgam poor-house. The Mukhis of the villages report that they advised the villagers repeatedly to go on the relief works, but many refused to go, and a few went to the large work at Naroda close at hand. For *tacavi* advances in connection with current year's cultivation in the whole State 20 lakhs of rupees have been allotted. Out of this sum the share allowed to the Kadi Division is $4\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs and to the Dehgam Taluka half a lakh. Kathwara and Bilasia got Rs. 385 and Rs. 175, respectively. As there are nearly 3,000 villages to be assisted in the whole *Raj*, it can readily be seen that the individual share of each village cannot be in thousands, unless the total amount available is counted by crores. It is true that the village of Naroda got Rs. 1,500 in *tacavi* and Rs. 500 as a free gift from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund; and the lucky villagers have been happy over it, as your correspondent tells us that the ryots fully recognise the generous policy of the Government, adding significantly, "especially since the advent of the rains." I do not know whether all the villages in the Ahmedabad Division have received pecuniary assistance on the same scale; but I do know that there are limitations to the resources and borrowing powers of the Baroda State, which do not exist in the case of the British Government. As regards the assistance given from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund more was given in British villages because there was more to give. Baroda State obtained from this Fund—thanks to the persistent advocacy of its claims by the Resident, Colonel Ravenshaw—a sum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, and it has been of great help. But what proportion does it bear to the allotments made to the British Districts? Your correspondent has told us that Broach District alone, with a population of 350,000, has got $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, or more than Re. 1-4-0 per head. Two and a half lakhs of rupees divided among the population of the Baroda State is less than 2 annas per head. As regards village doles, the local officers have satisfied themselves that there is no necessity for giving it in the village of Kathwara and Bilasia. The disabled poor, who are few in number, are dealt with from the allotment for *Gam Kharch*. The labouring classes are in full employment, labour being in great demand for weeding. Relief works, though kept open, are deserted as the inferior classes can collect large quantities of grass seeds (Sami) with little trouble and subsist on them; and they are not willing to do more work than they can help. The ryots who have lands to cultivate are generally averse to receiving maintenance *tacavi*, and the *Sowkars* who kept aloof during the height of the famine have renewed their old relations and commenced to minister to their needs. The cultivators will, of course, be very glad to have free gifts out of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund; but allotments from that fund are not available in unlimited amounts. That your correspondent should look with a kindlier eye on the shortcomings of famine administration in British districts and make large allowances for the difficulties under which it has been carried on is quite natural. He has seen the work of the officers, moved amongst them, and probably discussed with them the reasons for any defects, real or apparent, he may have observed; and he has conceived a just admiration for the noble work that has been and is being done there. He has not the same knowledge of the work done by the Baroda State, which is to him a *terra incognita*; but before condemning it so utterly is he not bound in common fairness to seek for information or explanation as regards any defects he might have observed, either from the local officers or the central administration at Baroda, if he wanted to find out the truth and not merely to register a foregone conclusion? Suppose that the famine administration of the Baroda State fell short of the standard attained in the British districts, does that justify a wholesale condemnation? Compare the resources in men and money at the command of the British Government with those available to a Native State. The present famine has affected a larger area of British India than any previous one; still the area affected is only a fractional part of the whole of India, and the resources of the parts unaffected can be made available for the relief of the affected part. The Public Works Department is the back-bone of the

famine administration : and when a famine occurs, the work of this department in the way of preparing famine relief programmes, the framing of estimates, the organizations of relief works and their execution is enormously increased : and to meet it the subordinate Public Works establishments—assistant engineers, supervisors, overseers—have to be quadrupled. Now the Bombay Presidency can indent on Madras or Bengal for trained men to supply the want. How is the Baroda State to obtain the men required? It had to content itself with raw, inexperienced recruits, and this means increased strain on the officers already in the service. This has been the greatest difficulty of the Baroda Government. Again, take the Medical Department. There was a severe outbreak of cholera simultaneously in all parts of this State in April and May. There was a similar outbreak in the Bombay Presidency, and Hospital Assistants to the number of fifty or a hundred were requisitioned from Bengal and Madras, and though the men came some time after the outbreak had subsided, still they were to be got. These resources are not available to the Baroda Administration, and it had to employ very inferior material. In a particularly violent outburst in his letter on Broach District published in your issue of the 22nd September, your correspondent characterises the relief programmes of the Baroda State as delusions and shams. Rs. 30,24,700 have been sanctioned for *tacavi* advances, part of it without interest. Out of this sum Rs. 20,09,295 have already been given away; and more is being given away every day, and the whole will be exhausted before the cold weather cultivation commences. Eight railway earthworks have already been almost constructed, covering 152 miles; three large canal works have already been started to cost 23 lakhs of rupees, and they are in rapid progress; over 25 lakhs of rupees are already expended on the relief works, 484 in all; and over 60 lakhs of rupees are already spent on famine measures, and before the famine operations are closed, something like 80 lakhs of rupees will have been spent. Revenue to the extent of 80 lakhs out of a total demand of about 130 lakhs has been suspended. These are incontestable facts. You may say that Baroda has not attained perfection in its famine measures. You may say that others could have run it much better, though I take leave to doubt it. You may say that there have been unavoidable mistakes of calculation. But you cannot say, unless you are simply bent on condemning Baroda, because it is Baroda and for no other reason, that all this substantial and solid work has been only a sham and a delusion.

I fear I have trespassed too much on your space and even more on your patience; but I have been obliged to do so in justice to an administration and its officials, who have tried to do their duty under enormous difficulties, and whose work your correspondent has endeavoured to belittle and discredit in many closely printed columns. The time required for the collection of correct information, from a distance, is my excuse for a little delay in replying to your correspondent.

Baroda, X.

The 1st October, 1900.

Enclosure 2 in No. 163.

A REJOINDER.

Our Special Correspondent in the famine districts writes :—

"X" has been at some pains to contradict certain figures published in my letter on the present condition of the villages of Kathwara and Bilasia. It was clearly explained that these statistics were supplied by the *Mukhis*, and that they should be accepted with some reservation as the village officer has a large and generous way of handling figures. "X" writes as one having authority, and his statistics are presumably drawn from official sources, but there are one or two points upon which a little elucidation is desirable. For instance, in the village of Kathwara, with its 175 wells, the mortality amongst plough cattle is

placed at 425 out of 627 ; in Bilasia it is put down at 37 out of 99—a truly remarkable difference. "X" produces absolutely no evidence to show that any measures were taken to repair this terrible wastage ; and yet claims that in Kathwara, where two-thirds of the oxen have perished, seventy-five per cent. of the full area will be cultivated. The ryots of Kathwara must be an exceptionally energetic body if this is the case, and there were no indications that anything like that area would be brought under cultivation when I visited that village last month. "X" further asserts that nineteen houses only have been abandoned in Kathwara and thirteen at Bilasia. He has been gravely misled, for a cursory inspection of the villages at the beginning of September would have shown him the absurdity of these figures. Discussion on these points, however, is unprofitable. I am prepared to assume, though it is a large assumption, that the figures quoted are accurate, and correctly represent the position of Bilasia and Kathwara at the period in question. This in no way affects my main contention, "that a virtual neglect of the afflicted peasantry in a year of terrible privation has, in these two villages, been accompanied by a severe exaction of the revenue demands." To take the question of relief first. "X" gives a list of minor works opened in the Dehgam Taluka, within reasonable distance, and of a major work subsequently established. He is discreetly silent upon the number of people engaged, the rates of pay and conditions of employment, and fails to give a single instance of any of the villagers utilising this means of relief. The task exacted under the Bombay Code is a very fair day's work for man, woman, and child, and the restrictions are many. If the indigent preferred the British works, under these circumstances, to those said to have been established by the Baroda Government, there must have been very good reason for their doing so. "X" asserts that thirty-eight persons from the two villages went to the Dehgam poor-house ; the *Mukhis* emphatically denied that any such measure of aid had been extended. As there was admittedly no dole, we are thrown back, then, upon the question of *tacavi*. This was given by the *Mukhis* at Rs. 300 for Kathwara and Rs. 20 for Bilasia ; "X" says the figures are Rs. 385 and Rs. 421. By this I presume he means the amount sanctioned, and if, as I take it, he is a revenue officer experienced in the ways of the native subordinate and working, in his own words, with "raw, inexperienced officials," there is no need to enlarge upon the difference between the amount "sanctioned" and the amount probably paid to the recipient. But assuming again that the sum mentioned by "X" is correct, what does it amount to? Taking the population at 2,500, the magnificent proportion of less than 3 annas per head in Kathwara and 1 rupee per head in Bilasia. My conclusion that whatever relief measures were decided upon by His Highness's Government, and whatever money grants were sanctioned, these two villages have been left to meet the greatest calamity which has ever befallen Guzerat without any material help, except a paltry loan at interest, is in no way affected by "X's" assertions.

With the revenue question I will deal briefly. "X" states that the percentage of recovery was a little over one-fourth in Kathwara and one-fifth in Bilasia. Is it not singular that the *Mukhis*, whom "X" claims to have been wildly inaccurate in every other particular, should, in this all-important question of the collections, have given figures which closely approximate to his own? He recognises that the principle I laid down, "that vague and general allegations of harsh or illegal practices in realising the assessment are entitled to little consideration at this juncture" is sound ; my application was equally sound. The complaints of the villagers of Kathwara and Bilasia were neither vague nor general ; they were specific and detailed. The instances I gave of the measures alleged to have been adopted by the Vahivatdar and his subordinates were narrated in the *chora*, in the presence of the village officers and the principal cultivators, and were vouched for by many responsible bystanders. Apparently, before the official appointed to inquire into this matter some of these statements were withdrawn. I will leave your readers to judge which is the more likely to be correct—the story volunteered before the unofficial visitor and backed by the village elders, or the retractation elicited by the official inquirer. The inference sought to be drawn by "X" from the case of Naroda is utterly unwarranted. I made no comparison between the two

villages, but since he invites it here it is. In the British village, where there was a wide and generous measure of Government relief, fourteen per cent. of the revenue was recovered; in the Gaekwari village, where the Government's bounty was represented by a loan at interest of less than 3 annas per head, more than twenty-five per cent. was collected. At Naroda no specific instance of furniture having been thrown into the street was mentioned; at Kathwara there were many allegations of harsh measures, besides the five categorical stories I quoted. The comparison I made was between Bilasia and the British village of Haspura—a subject "X" wisely avoids.

The other points in "X's" long letter are immaterial to the issue. My main contention was that a virtual neglect of the afflicted peasantry in a year of terrible famine has, in these two villages, been accompanied by a severe exaction of the revenue demands, and although "X" has pointed out inaccuracies in the figures of the village officers—which were anticipated and allowed for—he has brought forward nothing to show that the statement was not fully warranted. It is no answer to specific instances of neglect to parade imposing figures, showing amounts sanctioned in *tacavi* and elaborate relief schemes undertaken. These figures have been thrust forward *ad nauseam*, both in India and in England, when any detail of the Baroda famine policy has been called in question, while thousands of the Gaekwar's subjects were at the same time being maintained on British relief works and supported in British poorhouses.

IV.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

THE RAJPUTANA STATES.

No. 164.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2235 F., dated Abu, the 22nd May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1883 F., dated the 22nd April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statement† of the Mewar State for the month of April, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter No. 1057, dated the 8th May, 1900.

2. The marginal table gives the numbers on relief for the last seven months. The decline noticed last month has continued. There were 15,842 fewer people on works during April than in the preceding month. This is a fall of 17 per cent. The Darbar's explanation as given in paragraph 2 of Resident's letter that the decrease is chiefly due to the numbers on relief in Shapura having been wrongly reported last month is unintelligible. A reference has been made to the Resident on the subject. It is probable that the falling off is due partly to the cholera panic and partly to a number of Khalsa residents having left the works in Bednore and Deogarh when they were about to be drafted elsewhere. This view is confirmed by an analysis of the details. According to the statement, the numbers on the Khalsa works have risen by nearly 2 per cent., and on the Devasthan works by 15 per cent., while in the jagir areas they have fallen by as much as 16,572 persons or 25 per cent.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage of Population.
1899.				
October ...	10,587	2,534	13,121	·72
November ...	15,306	6,242	21,548	1·19
December ...	23,876	11,112	34,988	1·94
1900.				
January ...	73,092	13,527	86,619	4·81
February ...	99,201	22,710	1,21,911	6·77
March... ...	90,588	18,290	1,08,878	6·04
April	74,746	22,688	97,434	5·40

3. There has been an increase of 4,398, or 24 per cent., in the numbers on the gratuitous lists. The Khalsa numbers have increased by 36 per cent., the jagir only 7 per cent., and the Devasthan by 23 per cent. All these persons

* *See* page 472 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

are relieved in one or other of the poor-houses. Now that the chief poor-house at the capital has been organized, its efficiency and scope have both been very much increased.

Unfortunately, it has not escaped the epidemic of cholera which has broken out in a violent form in the city. The Resident mentions that the local committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has applied for a grant of Rs. 20,000, but this application was submitted at a time when the aggregate amount at the disposal of the Central Committee was very much less than it is now. It is hoped that the Provincial Committee will be able to allot nearly one lakh of rupees to Mewar. Even that amount cannot possibly cover the wide margin of suffering and distress with which these grants are intended to deal.

4. No account has been given of the rabi harvest, but incidentally it is stated that the yield has had some effect on the existing stocks.

5. Mr. Martindale, in paragraph 6 of his review for the month of March, remarked that the Resident had taken a more hopeful view of the situation in the Magra than was warranted by previous reports. The interesting report by Lieutenant Pinney, which forms the enclosure of Captain Pinhey's covering letter, confirms Mr. Martindale's opinion. The generous intentions of the Maharana have not been carried out by the local Hakim, as barely one-fourth of the amount sanctioned for relief purposes has been spent, and works which are now in progress will probably not be completed before the arrival of the monsoon rains.

Enclosure in No. 164.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Mount Abu, No. 1,057, *dated Udaipur, the 8th May,* 1900.

I have the honour to submit the famine statement for Mewar for the month of April, 1900, together with the prescribed skeleton map in duplicate.

2. The number of persons on relief works and of those in receipt of gratuitous relief compared with the figures for the preceding month show a decrease of 11,444, which is explained by the Darbar to be chiefly due to the number of persons under relief in Shahpura having been erroneously reported last month as 27,100 instead of 1,600.

3. As observed in my Narrative Famine Report for April, No. 378, dated 2nd instant, Lieutenant Pinney has completed his tour in the Khalsa Hilly Tracts and has submitted a report giving the result of his inspection. A copy of the report is now enclosed. From the report it will be observed that relief works in this district are not in a very satisfactory state. For this the Magra Hakim and the local officials entrusted with the supervision of relief works are chiefly to blame in not employing the full amount of labour that the sanctions provided, and to their dilatoriness in opening the works that had been sanctioned. This remissness on the part of these officials is much to be regretted, but Lieutenant Pinney has, I understand, taken steps to remedy these defects.

4. Mr. Pinney has also marched through Bednore and Deogarh, but I have received no particulars yet as to the relief measures in progress in these Estates.

5. The Darbar gives no information regarding expenditure on famine work during the month, as it is stated that no figures are available till after the 31st March. Information regarding expenditure up to that date was given in Colonel Thornton's report No. 297, dated 13th April, 1900. It is, however, stated that an additional sum aggregating Rs. 34,792 was sanctioned during April for relief works in Khalsa villages.

6. After some persuasion the Darbar applied during the month under review for the services of an Assistant Engineer especially for the purpose of controlling works in the Jagir Estates of Bednore and Deogarh. The Engineer, however, has not as yet been appointed.

7. Grain supplies now appear to be ample for all requirements, although prices still rule high.

8. Great improvement is observed in the management of the poor-house at Udaipur since it was placed under the control of the Residency Surgeon.

There have been a good many cases of cholera, but these have been imported from the city, where the disease is now prevalent in a severely epidemic form, and are not due to any cause arising from the management of the poor-house itself. The inmates of all poorhouses, as soon as they recover their health and strength, are at once drafted on to works.

9. A local committee of the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund has been formed. Subscriptions are being collected locally, and a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been applied for from the Provincial Committee for Mewar.

Lists of persons to be relieved under each of the four objects for which the fund has been organized are being prepared, and small sums have already been sanctioned for distribution through the local Missionaries and the Residency Surgeon.

10. The work on the Bara-Ajmer-Marwar Railway continues to give substantial relief to some of the most affected districts in Mewar. The returns show that at the end of April there were 12,221 persons on the works and 3,507 in receipt of gratuitous relief. This Railway work is still under the general supervision of the Superintending Engineer, Rajputana and Central India, the Darbar having declined to take over the management.

11. As desired in your letter No. 1935 F., dated 25th April, 1900, the Darbar has been asked to furnish information regarding the outturn of the rabi crop and the probable requirements of the people in the way of loans for the purpose of seed and bullocks. The Darbar has, however, not yet been able to collect the required information, which will be furnished in the report for the current month.

12. As I have only lately taken over charge of this Residency from Colonel Thornton, and have had no opportunity yet of visiting any portion of the State outside the Capital, I am not in a position to furnish any information regarding famine operations based on personal knowledge, except as regards the poor-house at Udaipur, which I have inspected and found to be in good working order and situated in a healthy locality well away from the city.

From information received, however, through Mr. Pinney and the State Engineer and others it would appear that substantial aid is being given to distressed persons throughout the Khalsa districts, and that even in the Estates of Jagirdars arrangements have at length been made to secure loans from the Darbar and money-lenders wherewith to employ labour and feed the starving portion of the population.

Annexure.

Letter from Lieutenant J. C. D. Pinney, Famine Officer, Mewar, to the Mehkma Khas of Mewar, dated the 10th April, 1900.

I have the honour to furnish you with the following report concerning the famine relief works, &c., in the Magra District.

2. I have personally inspected the works at the following places :—

Karpina.
Bara Pal.
Ama Pura.
Tiri.
Paduna.
Patia.
Rakhabdeo.
Bilac.
Sarara.
Jaisamand.

At Sarara I also examined the files showing the expenditure up to 31st March on relief works in charge of the Magra Hakim.

I attach a schedule which briefly shows the result of my enquiries.

3. With the exception of Jaisamand, where the original estimate has already been exceeded, and a fresh one of Rs. 35,000 granted, the expenditure on the tank works in the Magra Zilla has not been in due proportion to the money sanctioned, especially when it is borne in mind that all new reservoir bunds should be finished by 15th June or thereabouts.

In some cases works sanctioned long ago were only begun at the beginning of the present month, in others too much regard has been paid to money, and too little to endeavour to make the works afford as much relief as possible without exceeding the sanctions.

4. I have twice before during the last few months made a tour through the Magra Zilla, and on both occasions I urged most strongly the necessity of employing the full number of workers that the sanctions would allow, and of at once opening all the works that had been sanctioned.

5. However, this advice has not been followed, with the result that now within two months of the time that the monsoon may be looked for, a large proportion of the money sanctioned for tanks remains unspent, and the works themselves remain in a dangerously backward condition.

Moreover, large numbers of the Khalsa Bhils, having failed to obtain employment on the works in the vicinity of their Pals, have wandered off in search of food elsewhere.

6. The non-employment of the full amount of labour warranted by the sanctions of these local works is very much to be regretted, not only has it caused unnecessary suffering and loss of life, but it has also caused actual loss to the State in driving people at whose very doors local relief works had been sanctioned, to wander from their homes and gravitate towards the centres where gratuitous relief is distributed.

7. In fairness to the State officials I am bound to say that as far as they go these local works seem well managed, but, as I have pointed out above, they have fallen very far short of what they might have done in relieving distress.

I carefully tested the numbers engaged on the works I visited, and in every case found that the books and registers had been carefully kept.

The workers themselves had but one complaint to make, viz., the smallness of the wages.

As a general rule men's wages were 0-2-0 and the women's ($1\frac{1}{2}$), three-quarters of which were paid in cash every third, fifth, or eighth day according to local arrangements.

The balance was allowed to accumulate till the end of the month, the grain being supplied by the local "borer" or "bannia," which system seemed to work satisfactorily. But as 0-2-0 only purchases from 10 to $11\frac{1}{2}$ Imperial chittacks at the local prices, I think the wages are low, and I am glad to say the Hakim has issued orders making men's wages ($2\frac{1}{2}$), women's (2) and children's ($1\frac{1}{2}$) on all the relief works in his charge.

With reference to Jaisamand, as stated above, the original sanction of Rs. 24,000 has all been expended, but a further sum of Rs. 35,000 is being sanctioned to continue the work.

I found there 1,600 people at work, which number was daily being increased by fresh arrivals, and the arrangements in every way very much improved.

Payments were made daily in grain, the ration for an able-bodied adult being about nine chittacks Imperial, which in spite of only half a day's work being exacted is not enough.

In conjunction with the Hakim I arranged a new scheme which we hope will enable workers to earn 12 instead of 9 chittacks, and will at the same time obtain in return a few more hours' work for the State.

8. In addition to the above-mentioned works, I inspected the poor-houses at Bara Pal, Tiri, Rakhabdeo and Sarara, where I found respectively 142, 187, 222, and 225 people in daily receipt of gratuitous relief.

These poor-houses have made a great difference to the aspect of the Kherwara road, and considering the difficulty of managing such institutions, I think their arrangements are fairly good, and that the food given by His Highness the Maharana finds its way to the people.

At the same time I think more discretion should be used in its distribution, and that under no circumstances should it be given to people who could be in any way employed at neighbouring relief works.

The grain supply for the works under the Magra Hakim, except in the case of the work at Jaisamand, is, as I said above, supplied by the local "borers" or "bannias." These men make their own arrangements for importing their grain, or can on request get assistance either in grain or money from the State.

The supply at Jaisamand has been imported by the Magra Hakim, who has now stored there a three months' supply for 1,500 people. The camel transport that is thus set free is now being used to import grain to Sarara, the capital of the Zilla.

9. With reference to the works at Rakhabdeo under the Devasthan, I have already written to the Kothariji pointing out the desirability of increasing the number of unskilled labourers on the city wall, etc., etc.

10. In conclusion I would beg to call attention to my former reports of 30th November, 1899, and 23rd December, 1899, and to emphasize my remarks therein concerning the necessity of relief measures being inaugurated in all the jagirs of this Zilla.

Advances have been sanctioned to many Jagirdars, but they seem slow in availing themselves of the help thus afforded, and others to whom advances have not been sanctioned are doing nothing. I would beg to suggest that the Hakim be empowered to make the necessary arrangements for relief measures in all the latter without further delay.

No. 165.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2533 F., *dated Abu, the* 18*th June*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 2235 F., dated the 22nd May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Mewar State for the month of May, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter, No. 1401, dated the 10th June, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief since operations began in October last are brought together in the marginal table. During March and April the number of workers steadily declined. Delay in the submission of returns from outlying portions of the State has doubtless affected the relief statistics. The reference to the Shahpura figures in last month's report has now been explained. The Darbar were alluding to the returns for the Kachola Pargannah of Mewar which forms part of the Shahpura estate. But the chief reason for the continued decrease in labourers since February is attributable to reluctance of the Jagirdars in coming forward with properly organised schemes of relief. Latterly also the cholera epidemic and the resulting panic on some of the works contributed to the general tendency. During May, however, the efforts of the Maharana to bring his nobles to a sense of their duties have resulted in an increase of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the numbers on works in spite of the cholera which reached its height during the same period. The Khalsa returns show an actual decrease of nearly 4 per cent., while those from the Jagir and Deosthan works have risen by 7 and 14 per cent. respectively. Under instructions from His Highness, Lieutenant Pinney visited the estates of several of the leading nobles who have undertaken to carry out works under the supervision of the Darbar's Central Famine Officers. The lands of the Thakurs comprise the worst affected part of the jagir area, and these measures, although tardily introduced, have done much to mitigate the mortality and distress which prevailed under the less energetic policy pursued before Colonel Thornton's arrival. The administration of the Magra tract has improved.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous	Total.	Per Cent.
October ...	10,587	2,534	13,121	·72
November	15,306	6,242	21,548	1·19
December..	23,876	11,112	34,988	1·94
January ...	73,092	13,527	86,619	4·81
February...	99,201	22,710	121,911	6·77
March ...	90,588	18,290	108,878	6·04
April ...	74,746	22,688	97,434	5·40
May ...	77,422	20,821	98,243	5·45

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief have fallen by 8 per cent. This is said to be due to the non-receipt of the figures of one district, and to the closing of this branch of relief in Bhainsrorgarh (one of the larger and out of the way Jagir estates), the cause of which is being inquired into. The decline in the Khalsa figures is 853, or 7 per cent., and in the Jagir figures, 953, or 13 per cent. As

* Not printed.

only 400 persons were relieved gratuitously during April in the Bhainsrorgarh Jagir, there must have been a falling off in some of the other Jagirs also. The Deosthan figures have fallen by nearly 2 per cent. Cholera is probably the chief cause for the variations. The Provincial Committee of the Charitable Fund allotted Rs. 90,000, to Mewar during the month, and lists are being prepared for the distribution of the bulk of this sum in gifts for the purchase of seed and cattle.

4. The Resident states that the estimate of the recent rabi harvest is four annas in the rupee. This probably means that the yield of the crops actually sown was only one-fourth of the normal, and not that the harvest resulted in an amount of grain equal to one-fourth of that secured in an ordinary year. If the matured area and the average yield per acre are compared with those of a normal year, the harvest can hardly be considered as more than one-eighth of what is usually obtained.

The condition of the people has not improved. No part of Rajputana has been more severely stricken by cholera than Mewar. The recorded deaths alone show that 5 per cent. of the total population of the city and suburbs perished during the first fortnight in May, and the sudden outbreak on the railway works at Lambia carried off more than 800 out of 14,095 relief workers, or 6 per cent., in a few days. The number of deaths given in paragraph 4 of the remarks appended to the statement does not give even an approximate idea of the total mortality.

Enclosure in No. 165.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Meywar, Rajputana, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1401, *dated Camp* viâ *Udaipur, the 10th June,* 1900.

I have the honour to submit the famine report for Mewar for the month of May, 1900, together with the prescribed skeleton map in duplicate.

2. The number of persons on relief works and of those in receipt of gratuitous relief given in the statement when compared with the figures for the preceding month show an increase of 2,676 in the number of relief workers, and a decrease of 1,867 in the number of recipients of gratuitous relief at the end of the month under review. The increase in the number of relief workers is reported to be due to the pressure brought to bear on certain Jagirdars to open relief works in their estates, who had hitherto neglected to do so. The decrease in the number of receipients of gratuitous relief is stated to be caused by the non-inclusion of the figures for the Girwa District, which have not been received, and the discontinuance of gratuitous relief to 400 people in the estate of the Jagirdar of Bhainsrorgarh, which is being inquired into by the Famine Officer.

3. An additional sum of Rs. 8,973, is reported to have been sanctioned during the month for relief works in Khalsa villages. The Durbar has also induced many of the Jagirdars to provide relief in their estates.

4. The services of Mr. Wakefield have been lent to the Durbar for the purpose of controlling relief works in the Jagir estates of Bednore and Deogarh.

5. The yield of the rabi crop on the whole is estimated at 4 annas in the rupee, but the crops sown in the emerged beds of tanks, and on land irrigated by wells having a fair supply of water, have yielded a good outturn.

The Durbar reports that the information regarding the probable requirements of the people in the way of loans for the purchase of seed and bullocks is still awaited from the district Hakims and the Jagirdars.

6. The Rajputana Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has allotted a sum of Rs. 90,000 for Mewar, and steps are being taken by the local Committee for the distribution of the money.

No. 166.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2827 F., dated Abu, the 14th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2533 F., dated 18th June 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Mewar State for the month of June 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter No. 1716, dated 6th July, 1900.

2. The following table gives the numbers on relief of all kinds in the Mewar State since the month of October, 1899. The figures from January to May inclusive do not agree with those given in previous reports, as they include for the first time the persons relieved on the Mewar section of the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway. I ascertained only early last month that these statistics had not been shown up till then in the famine returns received from the Darbar. The following, therefore, are the correct figures :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October	10,587	2,534	13,121	·72
November	15,306	6,242	21,548	1·19
December	23,876	11,112	34,988	1·94
1900.				
January	76,993	14,535	91,528	5·08
February	107,898	26,512	134,410	7·46
March...	101,653	23,186	124,839	6·93
April	86,967	26,195	113,162	6·28
May	89,926	24,540	114,466	6·35
June	84,548	29,664	114,212	6·34

There has been a decrease of over 5,000 or nearly 6 per cent. in the numbers on all works. The numbers relieved on the Devasthan works have risen and those on the Jagir works have remained steady. The decrease is entirely confined to the Khalsa and Railway works. It cannot be accounted for by the cholera. The epidemic was at its height during May when the numbers actually increased. It is satisfactory to find that operations have not slackened in the Jagir area. Thanks to the exertions of Captain J. Pinney and Mr. Wakefield. The Darbar will have some difficulty in providing for the large number of people who will be thrown out of employment by the closing of the railway camps on account of want of funds. I have instructed Mr. Billings, the officer in charge, to keep open his works until the Darbar officials are in a position to open others.

3. The gratuitous relief figures have risen by 20 per cent. The increase is confined entirely to the Khalsa relief centres. The tendency of the famine policy during June appears to have been to induce people to leave the works for their villages, and this has naturally resulted in increase in the number of destitute people relieved at their own homes. The poor-house arrangements in

* Not printed.

the Magra tract and the rest of the Bhil country are very far from what they should be. The great difficulty in these parts is the depletion of the local food-stocks combined with a lack of transport. Unfortunately, the military authorities in Bombay, to whom I applied, are unable to provide either camels or mules, and the Resident at Udaipur has had to fall back on the slender local resources, supplemented by what animals he can hire at Neemuch. The Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have now allotted altogether Rs. 1,50,000 to the Local Committee at Udaipur, who are buying up cattle for issue to the cultivators as soon as the rains break. The Darbar have already advanced over one lakh of Chitori rupees for the same purpose. The people generally are deteriorating in condition, and I fear there is much unrelieved suffering among them, judging from the increased influx of starving Bhils into Udaipur. Water is failing in many parts. Cholera exists in sporadic form; most of the cases occurring in and about the city.

Enclosure in No. 166.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1716, dated Udaipur, the 6th July, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement for Mewar for the month of June, 1900.

2. 73,605 persons were on relief works and 25,885 in poor-houses at the end of the month, as compared with 77,422 and 20,821, respectively, on the last day of the preceding month.

No reason is alleged for the large decrease of 3,817 persons on relief works, but it appears to be due to the outbreak of cholera.

3. The number of persons under relief on the Bara-Ajmer-Marwar-Railway earthwork, which is not included in the above figures, is as under :—

—	Numbers.
Workers	10,943
Dependants	3,779
Total	14,722

This work will be shortly closed, as the Darbar are unwilling to advance further funds to carry it on, and arrangements are being made by the Darbar to take over the labourers, and draft them on to other relief works and poor-houses in the neighbourhood.

4. A sum of Rs. 1,02,410 is reported to have been sanctioned by the Darbar during the month for providing seed and food for cultivators, in addition to a sum of Rs. 25,898 for relief works in the Khalsa and Devasthan villages.

5. Emigration is reported to have practically ceased. A number of Marwari emigrants are returning to their homes from Central India, and arrangements are being made to provide relief depôts for them at fixed stages on the principal routes, where they can obtain food and fodder for their cattle.

6. The Rajputana Provincial Committee has allotted a sum of Rs. 30,000 for Mewar, in addition to the grant of Rs. 90,000 reported last month. A public meeting was held at Udaipur on the 25th June, under my presidency, for the purpose of collecting funds to supplement the above grants, and Rs. 8,500, Udaipuri, have been collected up to date.

The Local Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have ordered 2,000 bullocks from Messrs. Abbot Brothers of Jhansi at Rs. 50 per pair for distribution to agriculturists who have lost their bullocks and are unable to replace them, and are taking steps to relieve the famine-stricken in accordance with the objects of the fund.

7. The consignment of 1,500 maunds of paddy, generously sent by the Minister of Nepal for the famine-stricken in Mewar, has been received and will be distributed after it has been husked.

8. I inspected the poor-houses at Bara Pal, Tiri, and Pershad on the Udaipur-Kherwara Road during my recent visit to Kherwara and Dungarpur. The inmates were in bad condition and did not appear to get sufficient food to support life. The officials in charge, however, explained to mé that most of those I saw were new comers who arrived in a very emaciated condition, and that the inmates of the poor-houses are drafted on to relief works in the neighbourhood as soon as they are fit to work. I also visited the Dabok poor-house about 10 miles from Udaipur, and a relief work in the neighbourhood on the 21st June, and found the numbers increasing rapidly every day. The arrangements were fairly good.

9. Grain in the Magra district is again becoming scarce, and large numbers of Bhils are daily coming into Udaipur. This scarcity of grain is attributed to the difficulty in obtaining transport. All the local transport available is now being engaged for transporting grain to the district, and, at Captain Pinney's request, I have applied for Government mules, as the local supply of camels and carts will not be sufficient.

10. With the exception of two hours' steady rain at Chitor a few days ago, there has been no rain in Mewar up to date. Distress is, therefore, rapidly deepening and water is becoming scarcer every day. As far as I can judge, the Darbar appear to be making every effort to cope with the daily increasing severity of the famine. But if the approach of the monsoon current is delayed much longer, the Darbar's resources, both in the matter of establishments and cash, will be strained to the utmost, and a fresh and much more extended programme of relief measures will have to be drawn up.

11. The Rajputana-Malwa Railway recently stopped booking grain to stations on the Malwa section of the Railway and on the Udaipur-Chitor Railway, which resulted in an immediate rise in prices in the city. The restriction, however, only lasted a few days and has now been withdrawn.

Annexure.

Remarks by Captain J. C. D. Pinney, Famine Officer, Mewar, on famine in Mewar during June, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—One lakh of rupees have been granted to Mewar from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, which is being distributed in accordance with the rules of the Fund. To supplement this Fund, private subscriptions are being collected in Udaipur itself, but up to the present only Rs. 8,500, Udaipuri, have been subscribed.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—In the vicinity of Udaipur at Thur, Rupsagar, Lakhaoli, Dabok, and outside the Birampole gate, 12,549 people are receiving gratuitous relief. In all these places, except at the Birampole poor-house, a light daily task is exacted from the able-bodied.

In the Khalsa districts 4,293, in the Jagirs 6,019, and in the Devasthan villages 3,024, or in all a total of 25,885 people are reported to be receiving gratuitous relief.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Tanks, wells, canals and buildings are being constructed as relief works.

4. *Physical condition of people. Death (if any) from starvation.*—The famine-stricken are thin and weak.

The returns of Hakims and Jagirdars show 2,885 deaths from famine and disease.

This does not include the deaths from cholera.

5. *Food-stock.*—Certain merchants undoubtedly have grain stored, but it is impossible to correctly estimate the amount.

6. *Importation of grain.*—Grain is being imported by the Raj and private individuals as required, and comes chiefly from Cawnpore and Hathras.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The general condition of the affected area is bad ; it is hoped that the arrival of the monsoon will materially improve matters.

8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—Nil.

9. *Emigration or immigration and other matters.*—Emigration has practically stopped. Thirty people are reported to have gone to Neemuch, but have been brought back by State officials.

10. *Crop prospects.*—A report on the "rabi" crop was submitted last month.

11. *What amount will be required for loans to cultivators for the purchase of seed and cattle.*—An estimate in answer to this question is being prepared, and will be hereafter submitted.

Report for June, 1900.

I.—Differentiate the expenditure on relief works and on gratuitous relief ?

From reports received the following amounts appear to have been expended on relief works and gratuitous relief during the month of May, 1900 :—

RELIEF WORKS.

——	Rs.
Khalsa and Devasthan	1,23,814
Jagirs	1,67,660
Total	2,91,474
Details, viz —	
1st class jagirs	77,660
Deogarh and Badnor, &c., State money under State supervision	80,000
Small jagirs	10,000
Total	1,67,660
Grand Total Relief Works	2,91,474

N.B.—It is impossible to submit these figures for the month of June, as reports do not arrive in time.

GRATUITOUS RELIEF.

——	Rs.
Khalsa and Devasthan	42,566
Jagirs	8,019
Grand Total for Gratuitous Relief ...	50,585

II.—Enter in the remarks on the back of the statement the scale of rations in chittacks or, if cash is given, the amount and the grain equivalent ?

The majority of relief works in Mewar are under the management of the Local Public Works Department, who report that their minimum wage for men is 3 annas, Udaipuri, whilst women and children receive $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 annas.

Roughly speaking, the present purchasing power of 3 annas, Udaipuri, is about 16 Imperial chittacks of barley or maize. The relief workers are all paid by cash payments except in the Jahazpur district, where payments are reported to be made in grain at the following rates :—

Men per diem ... ... 16 to 20 chittacks Imperial.
Women and children ... 12 ditto.

In the Magra Zilla the relief works are nearly all under the entire management of the Hakim.

The coolies are paid in cash, and as reported last month the rates were raised at the end of March by half-anna all round which brought them to the following :—

Men	2½ annas.
Women and children	2 ditto.

In the poor-houses around Udaipur, with the exception of Dabok, adult inmates are allowed 6 Udaipuri chittacks of food a day which = 7½ chittacks Imperial measure. But those performing heavy work are given a ration increased up to 10 chittacks Imperial.

At Dabok rations in the form of boiled grain are given, and as reported last month the allowance for every individual is about 4½ or 5 Imperial chittacks.

In distribution the shares are divided according to the age and condition of the recipients.

III.—Show separately workers paid on the contract system and at rates higher than the famine rates?

Reports received show that no relief work has been carried out by contract.

No. 167.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3134 *F., dated Abu, the* 18–20*th August*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2827 F., dated the 14th July, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements* of the Mewar State, including the hilly tracts, for the month of July, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letters Nos. 2068, dated the 7th August, 1900, 2086, dated the 10th August, 1900, and 3010, dated the 11th August, 1900.

2. The numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds in the Mewar State, excluding the hilly tracts, during the last ten months are brought together in the marginal table. There has been a decrease of over 26,000, or 31 per cent.. in the numbers on works. The figures given in paragraph 2 of the Resident's covering letter do not include the fluctuations on the works of the Mewar section of the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway. The Khalsa subjects have from the first received much more attention than those living in the Jagir area, and in every way are now in a better condition to take advantage of the change of season. This is clearly brought out by the varying effect the recent favourable rains have had on the numbers relieved in the Khalsa, Devasthan, and Jagir areas, respectively. The numbers on the Khalsa

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October ..	10,587	2,534	13,121	·72
November...	15,306	6,242	21,548	1·19
December ...	23,876	11,112	34,988	1·94
1900.				
January ...	76,993	14,535	91,528	5·08
February ...	107,898	26,512	134,410	7·46
March ...	101,653	23,186	124,839	6·93
April ...	86,967	26,195	113,162	6·28
May ...	89,926	24,540	114,466	6·35
June ...	84,548	29,664	114,212	6·34
July ...	57,892	20,993	78,885	4·38

* Not printed.

works have fallen by nearly one-half, and on those financed by the Devasthan revenues which are controlled by the Darbar by 55 per cent. The Jagir figures, on the other hand, show a fall of only 10 per cent. The Lambia Railway works have throughout occupied a peculiar position of their own. They were finally closed on the 28th July, the people having been gradually dismissed with a week's wages to their homes, except about one-fourth, who were drafted on to other works. The majority of the Jagir labourers are employed under the direct superintendence of Mr. Wakefield. Owing to a dearth of remunerative works and the enormous mortality among agricultural live-stock, that officer has made field labour his chief relief work. With the exception of a large gang of carriers who have been posted along the road to the nearest station on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway to bring in the grain for payments, the people have been busily engaged for the last two months in a great scheme of spade cultivation. Before the monsoon broke, the culturable area was systematically and effectually tilled by means of the ordinary country hoe. In the rest of the Jagir area the people have been employed on petty relief works under the direct superintendence of Captain Pinney.

3. The numbers of those in receipt of gratuitous relief have fallen by 29 per cent. The figures for the Jagir area have remained stationary, while the decrease in the Khalsa area is 15 per cent. The Devasthan figures, however, have declined by nearly one-half. The total under this head is inconsiderable. On the last day of the month over two-thirds of the people in receipt of gratuitous relief were returned from the Khalsa area. The details of the numbers given in the remarks do not agree with the figures in column 7 of the relief statement. The former are as follows :—

—	Number.
Poor-houses at Udaipur and neighbourhood... ...	9,800
„ under Khalsa Hakims	4,467
„ of Jagirdars	5,087
„ in Devasthan	1,577
Total	20,931

The total noted in the statement is 20,993. In addition to the above about 3,500 people were being fed on doles of rice out of the consignment sent from Nepal by His Excellency the Minister. This brings the total up to 24,431. It is not said who the recipients of these doles were, but it appears they have been collected at two towns in the plain between Udaipur and Chitor. They are probably Bhils, who have fled from their hills and Minas from the Jehazpur direction.

4. The monsoon burst in in the Mewar on the 8th July, and gave good rain up till the 14th. After a break of ten days, a second burst occurred, and from the 24th up to the time of writing heavy showers have fallen almost every day. A short break of five or six days would now be beneficial. The great dearth of cattle will, I fear, prevent the cultivators from taking full advantage of improved weather conditions. 500 hand ploughs have been distributed, and 1,000 bullocks have arrived or are on their way from Jhansi. Their cost has been debited to the allotment of Rs. 1,80,000, which the Local Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have received from Calcutta. The report does not mention the amount spent by the Darbar on the same object, or the number of cattle supplied as taccavi loans. The lately sown crops have germinated well, and, except that the area under cultivation will be very much below the normal, the kharif prospects are excellent.

5. The following table shows the numbers on relief in the hilly tracts during the last eight months :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
December	765	567	1,332	1·87
1900.				
January	1,505	806	2,311	3·25
February	3,189	966	4,155	5·76
March	3,254	1,372	4,626	6·51
April	4,152	1,879	6,031	8·5
May	4,019	2,542	6,561	9·24
June	4,101	4,264	8,365	11·78
July	1,585	3,015	4,600	6·38

The numbers on works have fallen by 61 per cent., but as the figures for Kotra represent the daily average attendance during the month, the decrease must be really very much greater. This is probably the case also in Kherwara, as the Political Superintendent reports that the relief works have ceased for want of labourers. The works open at the end of the month appear to have been one large tank at Jawas and two tanks in Kotra. The numbers supported by the Church Missionary Society Missionaries are said to have remained stationary.

6. Copious rain has fallen all over both districts. The people are slowly picking up condition and are now in good heart. The death-rate is still high, as the people eat freely of unripe jungle products. Otherwise there is no epidemic, and fever cases are by no means numerous. The cattle can now obtain sufficient grazing. The animals purchased by the Local Charitable Fund Committee are now coming in, but live-stock being now almost priceless, thefts and raids are increasing. On the 8th of August the Political Superintendent telegraphed that pleuro-pneumonia had broken out among the cattle at Kherwara, and the cartmen who were engaged in bringing in grain were bolting. A further reference, however, showed that the original diagnosis was wrong. Eighty cattle died suddenly in one day, but there have been no cases since, and there seems to be little doubt that the animals died from eating some poisonous plant. In the remarks appended to the statement, the Political Superintendent states that many hundreds died in one day all over the district. This is not borne out by his special report on the subject. It is interesting to note that some of those who left the district during the famine are beginning to return.

7. The returns now furnished of the details of the expenditure of the Government grant of Rs. 5,000 are not yet complete. I have kept these back, therefore, pending the result of further inquiries.

Enclosure in No. 167.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident in Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2068, dated Udaipur, the 7th August, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement for Mewar for the month of July, 1900.

2. The number of persons on relief works and of those in receipt of gratuitous relief, compared with the figures for the preceding month, show a falling off of 15,713 and 4,892, respectively. This large decrease is due to the advent of the rains, which has induced many of the people to go and cultivate their fields.

3. To meet the great dearth of plough cattle, efforts have been made to provide a hand plough of the Jaipur pattern, and already about 500 have been distributed. Besides the above, 1,000 bullocks are being obtained from Messrs. Abbott Brothers, Sehore, from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund money for distribution to broken down agriculturists—113 of these bullocks were distributed in my presence at Chitor on the 26th July.

4. I inspected the Bara-Ajmer-Marwar Railway relief works at Lambia on the 16th July. I found that 3,500 persons had been discharged with a week's wages, and that 7,846 remained on the works. The latter have since been gradually drafted back to their own districts and the work closed.

5. A sum of Rs. 6,516 is reported to have been sanctioned by the Darbar during the month for relief measures.

6. About 600 Mewaris are reported to be in the poor-house at Erinpura, and the Mewar Darbar has been asked to arrange for their removal. Complaints have also been received of the emigration of Mewar subjects to Ajmer-Merwara, and the Darbar has been requested to adopt effective measures to prevent this.

7. Fairly good rain fell throughout Mewar between the 8th and 14th of the month, which enabled agricultural operations to be undertaken throughout the State. Since the 24th instant more rain has been received, and the agricultural prospects in the State are so far good.

8. A further allotment of Rs. 30,000 has been received for Mewar from the Rajputana Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. This additional grant has enabled the Mewar Local Committee to place Rs. 25,000 at the disposal of Mr. Wakefield for expenditure in the Deogarh, Bednore, and other severely-affected Jagirs.

9. I visited the Udaipur poor-house on the 24th July. I found 1,351 inmates, who were accommodated in four enclosures. The sanitary arrangements were very defective, and I recommended improvements under several heads to the Darbar, which are now being carried out.

10. With His Highness the Maharana's consent, I have now obtained the services of a Famine Assistant, Lieutenant St. John, for Mewar. His work will consist in distributing Famine Fund money and bullocks under the 4th object, more particularly amongst Bhils, and in supervising Captain Pinney's work at Udaipur during the latter's absence on tour.

Annexure.

Remarks by Captain J. C. D. Pinney on famine in Mewar during July, 1900.

Private relief.—1½ lakhs of rupees have been received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and this sum has been increased by a local subscription list of about Rs. 10,000, which sums are now being distributed.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—In the vicinity of Udaipur at Birompole, Rupsagar, Lakhaoli and Dabok, 9,800 people are receiving gratuitous relief.

In the Khalsa zillas 4,467 are reported to be being fed in poor-houses managed by the Hakims.

In the Jagirs 5,087, and in the Devasthan 1,577 people are reported to be in receipt of gratuitous relief.

At Sanwar and Mauli about 2,000 and 1,500 people, respectively, are being fed on the rice presented to the Famine Fund by His Highness the Minister of Nepal.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Tanks, wells, canals and buildings are being constructed as relief works.

4. *Physical condition of people.*—The famine-stricken are thin and weak.

Deaths, if any, from starvation.—The returns from State officials and Jagirdars show 4,742 deaths from famine and disease.

5. *Food-stock.*—Certain merchants have undoubtedly stores of grain, which are now being brought into use in providing seed for their well-to-do assamis ; but it is impossible to correctly estimate the amount of these stores.

6. *Importation of grain.*—Grain is being imported from Cawnpur, Hathras and other places by the Raj and other individuals in accordance with the requirements of the population.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The general condition of the affected area has been very much improved by the recent rains, and a promising kharif crop has already begun to make its appearance on all sides.

8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—Nil.

9. *Emigration or Immigration and other matters.*—Emigration appears to have practically stopped, reports showing only 11 emigrants had to be brought back to Mewar by State officials.

10. *Crop prospects.*—The sowing of the kharif crop has been general, and many fields of makki are already in a forward condition.

11. *What amount will be required for loans to cultivators for the purchase of seed and cattle.*—The necessary reports for framing this estimate not having been received, it is impossible to submit a reliable answer under this heading.

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1. From the latest information received, the following amounts appear to have been expended on relief works and on gratuitous relief, viz. :—

	Amounts.
RELIEF WORKS.	*Rs. a. p.*
Khalsa and Devasthan	51,305 12 3
First-class Jagirs (independently)	39,429 10 0
Jagirdars in charge of Mr. Wakefield	80,000 0 0
Small Jagirdars (independently)	17,212 12 6
Total...	2,07,948 2
GRATUITOUS RELIEF.	
Khalsa and Devasthan	43,870 11 3
First-class Jagirdars	9,075 11 3
Small Jagirdars	1,699 14 6
Total...	54,646 5 0
Grand Total	2,62,594 7 9

2 & 3. As last month.

Enclosure 2 in No. 167.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident in Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2086, *dated Udaipur, the* 10*th August,* 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Famine Statement of the Kotra district for the month of July, 1900, together with the returns called for in connection with the grant of Rs. 5,000 allotted by the Government of India for the purposes of relief in the cantonments of Kherwara and Kotra.

2. There is a decrease of 843 among relief workers, and an increase of 156 among recipients of gratuitous relief as compared with the figures for the preceding month.

3. Good rain has fallen in the Kotra district, and the decrease in the number of relief workers shows that people are leaving relief works to cultivate their fields.

4. Crime is reported to be abnormal, and cattle-lifting by Bhils of adjoining States is very frequent. No specific cases of crime have, however, been reported to this office, and the Assistant Political Superintendent has been instructed to address the Political Officers concerned, with a view to the Darbars being requested to take steps to prevent their Bhils from committing raids in the Kotra district.

5. A complete return has at length been furnished by the Assistant Political Superintendent, showing the expenditure of the portion of the Government grant allotted to the Kotra Cantonment. Up to the end of July the whole amount of Rs. 1,000, so allotted, has been expended, and Rs. 135-7-0 besides on relief works for inhabitants of the Kotra Cantonment. As no further sum has been asked for, I presume that Major Dawson has sufficient funds at his disposal from other sources to go on with, and, as good rain has fallen, these petty works have no doubt by this time been closed.

Annexure.

Remarks by Major Dawson, Assistant Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on famine in the Kotra (Mewar) District during July, 1900, dated Kotra, the 2nd August, 1900.

1. *Condition of the people.*—Bad.

2. *Deaths.*—435 deaths in poor-house and dispensary from dysentery, following starvation and injurious food, and 26 deaths have been reported in the district, but correct numbers cannot be obtained. A very large percentage of deaths are wanderers from Guzerat. Women have been brought in by their friends in a dying state and left.

3. *Cholera.*—No deaths from cholera have been reported this month.

4. *Importation of grain.*—Sufficient grain has been imported.

5. *Emigration.*—Nil.

6. *Cattle.*—The cattle are in poor condition. It is hoped that they will soon pick up as the grass grows.

Plough oxen are fed free of cost to owners in Kotra. Hundreds have been stolen and driven over the border.

7. *Relief works.*—The decrease in the number of people on relief works is owing to good rain having fallen in the district. Most Bhils prefer to eat the herbs which have sprung up to going on work. The numbers shown this month are the daily average—

283	Bhils	are	employed	in Jura
144	„	„	„	in Panarwa.
167	„	„	„	in Oghna.
150	„	„	„	in Kotra.

8. *Rate.*—The rate of of rations in the district are men 12 chittacks, women 8, and children 6.

9. *Works.*—Most of the works are closed, the majority being completed. The Bhils refuse to work since rain has fallen. Upwards of 50 miles of road have been made. Two tanks, four bauries and one house have been completed; two tanks still under construction.

10. *Poor-house.*—488 are fed.

11. *Private charity.*—750 children, 50 women and cripples.

12. *Water.*—Owing to good rain the water is now sufficient everywhere in the district.

13. *Fodder.*—Green leaves in large quantities obtainable, grass is growing and brought in for sale; many Bhils obtain a living ration from this source.

14. *Crime.*—Crime is still great, raids on cattle are very frequent. Four banias' shops have been looted. Counter-complaints from adjoining States are received.

15. *Grain.*—Seed grain has been given to upwards of 3,000 Bhils in my presence, others have freely bought in the Kotra market, which is open to everyone.

16. *Rain.*—$8\frac{3}{4}$ inches of rain has been measured in Kotra during the month. The fall in the district has been very much heavier.

17. *Prospects.*—The rain has made every one hopeful and the outlook is brighter. The crops are well up and strong.

Enclosure 3 in No. 167.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident in Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 3010, dated Udaipur, the 11th August, 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Famine Statement of the Kherwara district for the month of July, 1900, together with the returns called for showing the expenditure against the Government grant of Rs. 5,000 allotted for the purposes of relief in the cantonments of Kherwara and Kotra.

2. The number of persons on relief works and gratuitous relief show a decrease of 1,673 and 1,405, respectively, as compared with the figures for the preceding month.

3. Good rain has fallen throughout the district, and the majority of the people are reported to have left the relief works and poor-houses and kitchens to cultivate their fields. The few people that have remained are said to have been put on earthworks at Jawas, but no information is furnished as to what these earthworks are.

4. Colonel Bignell recently reported that pleuro-pneumonia had broken out among the cattle in the Kherwara district, and that there was great mortality among the cattle from the disease. From this Famine Report it, however, appears that the cause of the mortality among the cattle is unknown, and that no more deaths have occurred since the first outbreak. The deaths were probably due to eating poisonous herbs which are now springing up.

5. The difficulty experienced in transporting grain into Kherwara is now reported to have been overcome. Colonel Bignell stated in a report, dated 3rd August, that he has purchased 40 carts and 160 draught bullocks, and has in addition hired 25 carts and 30 camels for conveyance of grain, and that this transport may be considered sufficient for present requirements.

Since the receipt of this report, however, the road between Udaipur and Kherwara has been badly breached by the late heavy rains, and it will be some days before it again becomes available for wheeled traffic. It would perhaps, therefore, have been better to have depended more on camel than cart transport during the rainy season.

Annexure.

Remarks by Colonel E. D. F. Bignell, Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on famine in Kherwara District during July, 1900.

On this page should be recorded very briefly information as to private relief, village and poor-house relief, general character of relief works, physical condition of people, death, if any, from starvation, food-stock, importation of grain, general condition and prospects of affected area, changes in rates of wages, emigration or immigration, and other matters which will not delay the despatch of the statement beyond the 15th of the following month.

The pressure has ceased, but great exertions are being made to supply grain, cattle and seed to those working in the fields. The poor-houses are emptying, kitchens nearly deserted, relief works ceased for want of labourers. A few hundreds still want relief till next crop ripens, and I have put them on earthworks at Jawas to give them employment and keep them away from cantonments.

Copious rain has fallen, though very late, which leaves little time to make and distribute hand ploughs and import and give out seed, but a great deal has been done.

The condition of the people daily improves, though deaths are numerous from the ravenous way they eat a jungle plant called Powar which gives them cholic and diarrhœa.

Water in wells rising ; pools filled.

Cattle disease has, it is believed, broken out, but its character is not known ; many hundreds died one day all over the district, but none have died since.

Immigration beginning.

Grain still very scarce, being imported.

No. 168.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3313 F., dated Abu, the 18th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3134 F., dated the 18-20th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements of the Mewar State, including the Hilly Tracts, for the month of August, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letters Nos. 3316, 3317, and 3295, dated, respectively, the 12th and 10th September, 1900.

2. The following table gives the numbers on relief of all kinds in Mewar during the last 11 months :—

MEWAR.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
October 1899	10,587	2,534	13,121	·72
November „	15,306	6,242	21,548	1·19
December „	23,876	11,112	34,988	1·94
January 1900	76,993	15,535	91,528	5·08
February „	107,898	26,512	134,410	7·46
March „	101,653	23,186	124,839	6·93
April „	86,967	26,195	113,162	6·28
May „	89,926	24,540	114,466	6·35
June „	84,548	29,664	114,212	6·34
July „	57,892	20,993	78,885	4·38
August „	4,275	6,745	11,020	·61

The number of workers has fallen by 92 cent. from nearly 60,000 to just over 4,000. The famine labour is chiefly employed in repairing the dams of tanks which have been breached by the recent heavy floods and in the construction of buildings. The gratuitous relief figures have declined by two-thirds from 21,000 to nearly 7,000. All the people assisted in this way, excepting 684 who are supported from the Devasthan (Temple) Funds, are collected in the four central poor-houses close to the capital or in similar institutions at the head-quarters of Hakims. Every other form of relief has ceased. The total number of persons on relief of all kinds during August was the lowest on record since operations began in October last, and represents only ·61 of the population of the State as compared with over 4 per cent. in July.

3. Mewar has received upwards of 30 inches of rain since the monsoon broke a little more than two months ago, and a long break is now required to enable the grain to develop and the crops to ripen. Jungle products are available, so there is no longer fear of people dying from actual hunger. The distribution of the charitable allotments has been nearly finished, and all the plough bullocks imported by the Local Charitable Committee have been given out. The jagir cultivators have not been forgotten. In the western jagir area Mr. Wakefield has distributed Rs. 32,000 as gifts to the poorer classes for the purchase of seed grain and bullocks. Captain C. J. D. Pinney has been forced to take leave owing to ill-health, but his duties are being carried on by Lieutenant St. John. Mr. Wakefield has nearly completed the special work he was engaged in and will leave Mewar some time during the current month.

4. The numbers on relief in the Hilly Tracts of Mewar during the last nine months are brought together below :—

HILLY TRACTS.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
December 1899	765	567	1,332	1·87
January 1900	1,505	806	2,311	3·25
February „	3,189	966	4,155	5·76
March „	3,254	1,372	4,626	6·51
April „	4,152	1,879	6,031	8·5
May „	4,019	2,542	6,561	9·24
June „	4,101	4,264	8,365	11·78
July „	1,585	3,015	4,600	6·38
August „	1,036	1,867	2,903	4·09

Workers and persons in receipt of gratuitous relief have both fallen off by approximately one-third, and the total number of relief units is under 3,000. This is the lowest total recorded since January last, but it represents 4 per cent. of the population as recorded at the Census of 1891. Kherwara returns the largest number on works, but the total on gratuitous State relief in Kotra is the higher. This is probably due to the fact that the relief operations of the Missionaries are not so extensive in the latter district. The numbers on the Mission lists have fallen by nearly one-half. The Hilly Tracts have had their full share of the abundant rainfall of the last two months, and as in Mewar the crops on low-lying ground have suffered from floods. The reports contain the most encouraging accounts of the condition of the people and cattle which have been received since the famine began. Crime is still above the normal in Kotra only.

5. Altogether the outlook is distinctly promising over the whole of Mewar, and by the end of this month all necessity for direct relief will have passed away. The medical establishment will, however, be unable to relax their efforts, as malarial fever is certain to break out in epidemic form after the rains cease.

Enclosure 1 in No. 168.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 3316, *dated Udaipur, the* 12*th September*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement for Mewar for the month of August, 1900.

2. The numbers of persons on relief works and on gratuitous relief, have decreased from 57,892 and 20,993 at the end of the preceding month, to 4,275 and 6,745, respectively.

Above 30 inches of rain have now fallen in Mewar, and it is hoped that by the end of the current month most of the relief works and poor-houses will have been closed.

3. The physical condition of the famine-stricken is improving, though they are reported to be still thin and weak.

4. The crops have been considerably damaged by excessive rain, and it is feared that this may prolong the distress to a certain extent.

5. A further allotment of Rs. 27,000 has been received for Mewar from the Rajputana Provincial Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, making the total allotment up to date Rs. 2,50,000. From this further grant Rs. 10,000 have been allotted for distribution among the Bhils of the Khalsa Hilly Tracts, in addition to the sums previously sanctioned for this purpose.

The money is being personally distributed by Lieutenant St. John, Famine Officer, who is now touring in the Hilly Tracts. Mr. Wakefield was engaged in distributing Rs. 32,000 allotted to Deogarh, Bednore and the other neighbouring jagirs during the month.

Annexure.

Remarks on famine in Mewar during August, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—Private relief is being afforded from the funds allotted by the Mewar Local Committee, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—In the poor-houses in the vicinity of Udaipur at Birampole, Rupsagar, Daboke and Kamlode about 2,990 people are receiving gratuitous relief.

In Khalsa Zillas 3,021 are reported to be fed in poor-houses managed by the Hakims. In the Devasthan villages 634 are reported to be in receipt of gratuitous relief.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Tanks, wells, canals and buildings are being constructed as relief works.

4. *Physical condition of people. Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—The famine-stricken are thin and weak.

5. *Food-stocks.*—Some merchants have stores of grain, but it is not possible to estimate the amount of these.

6. *Importation of grain.*—Grain is being imported from Cawnpore, Hathras and other places.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Crops are in excellent condition, except in parts where they are affected by excessive rains.

8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—Nil.

9. *Emigration and Immigration.*—Emigration has now ceased. There is no immigration.

10. *Crop prospects.*—The sowing of kharif crops is completed.

Enclosure 2 in No. 168.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 3317, dated Udaipur, the 12th September, 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Famine Report of the Kotra district for the month of August, 1900.

2. The number of persons under relief at the end of the month shows a decrease of 351 on relief works and 284 on gratuitous relief as compared with the figures for the preceding month.

3. The condition of the Bhils is said to be improving, though crime is still above the normal. Sama, Batti, Kuri and other inferior crops are now ready, and afford sufficient food for the people until the maize ripens.

4. Major Hutton Dawson, who has been in charge of this district throughout the famine, and whose long experience and influence over the Bhils have enabled him to organise relief measures with great success and to inspire confidence amongst the people, has lately taken over charge of the duties of Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts at Kherwara, and has been succeeded by Captain Holmes.

Annexure.

Remarks by Captain G. V. Holmes, Officiating Assistant Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on famine in the Kotra (Mewar) District during August, 1900, *dated Kotra, the* 1st *September,* 1900.

1. *Condition of people.*—Improving.

2. *Deaths.*—There has been 197 deaths in dispensary and poor-house and *nil* reported in district.

3. *Emigration.*—Nil.

4. *Cattle.*—The cattle are now in good condition, as the grass and water are sufficient everywhere in the district.

5. *Relief works.*—Most of the Bhils are employed in their fields, many now eat grass seeds of various kinds and especially Sama, Batti and Kuri. This is also the cause of preventing the Bhils from coming on relief works.

The following is the daily average of the Bhils on relief works :—

127 Bhils in Jura.
23 „ in Panurwa.
93 „ in Oghna.
150 „ in Kotra.

6. *Poor-house.*—312 destitute are fed.

7. *Private charity.*—692 children, old women and cripples.

8. *Fodder.*—Green grass in large quantities obtainable.

9. *Crime.*—Crime is above normal.

10. *Seed grain.*—Seed grain has been supplied to a large number of Bhils who were in need.

11. *Rain.*—About 22 inches of rain have fallen during the month.

12. *Crops.*—Such crops as have been sown are in a good condition.

Enclosure 3 in No. 168.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana. No. 3295, *dated Udaipur, the* 10*th September,* 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Famine Report of the Kherwara district for the month of August, 1900.

2. There were 643 persons on relief works, and 2,363 in receipt of gratuitous relief, as compared with 841 and 4,477 at the end of the preceding month.

3. There has been good rain in the district, and by the end of the current month it is hoped there will be no further necessity for relief of any kind.

Annexure.

Remarks by Major C. Hutton Dawson, Political Superintendent, Hilly Tract, Mewar, on Famine in Kherwara District, during August, 1900.

On this page should be recorded very briefly information as to private relief, village and poor-house relief, general character of relief works, physical condition of the people, death, if any, from starvation, food stock, importation of grain, general condition and prospect of affected area, changes in rates of wages, emigration or immigration, and other matter which will not delay the despatch of the statement beyond the 15th of the following month.

Condition of people.—Improving.

Deaths.—236 in the Kherwara poor-house from dysentery and diarrhœa. No details from the district.

Grain.—Grain is still imported; the very bad state of the Udaipur road makes it difficult for carts to travel.

Cattle.—The cattle that have survived are in fairly good condition. About 100 plough oxen have been distributed and more will be given in time for rabi sowing.

Relief works.—Very few Bhils now apply for work. In Jawas there are upwards of 300 people employed, only about 20 per cent. are Bhils. In Kherwara about 200, chiefly Kumars, Patels, Chamars, Mogias, are given work.

It is hoped that by the end of the month no relief will be necessary.

Rate paid in grain.—Men, 12 chittacks; women, 8 chittacks; children, 6 chittacks.

Poor-house.—Kherwara, 529; Jawas, 198; Church Mission Society kitchens in Hilly Tracts, 1,500.

Water.—Ample.

Fodder.—Abundant.

Crime.—Not much above normal.

No. 169.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2157 F., dated Abu, the 15th May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1808 F., dated the 14th April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward, in original, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement† of the Marwar State for the month of April, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter No. 338 G., dated 7th May, 1900.

2. The marginal table gives the details of numbers relieved on works, and gratuitously during the last eight months. In my review of the figures for March some doubt was expressed as to their accuracy, but a further reference to the Resident shows that they were really correct. It will be seen that there has been a marked decrease in the numbers in receipt of both kinds of relief. The workers have fallen off by no less than 26,586 persons, or 25 per cent. It was expected that the restricted harvest operations would operate as a check on the steady increase in the demand for relief, and they have doubtless had their effect. But the main cause of the large drop in numbers has, as the Resident points out, been the outbreak of cholera. On one or two of the largest works, notably Dholera, a panic set in, and the people fled to their houses. Some of these joined the civil agency works open near their villages. An

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
September...	10,985	2,263	13,248	·5
October ...	26,025	4,614	30,639	1·21
November.	39,207	10,719	49,926	1·97
December ...	78,084	13,790	91,874	3·63
1900.				
January ...	73,232	18,370	91,602	3·62
February ...	105,264	23,510	128,774	5·09
March ...	106,699	28,237	134,936	5·34
April ...	80,113	24,558	104,671	4·14

* *See* page 447 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

analysis of the numbers on works during the past three months shows that, while the increase on petty works during March was only 592, or 6 per cent., the total rose in April by 4,339, or 42 per cent. These figures, however, still leave over twenty thousand of the people who abandoned the Department Public Works works unaccounted for. Most of these may soon rejoin, but, in the interval, they will suffer very considerable hardship, and require careful treatment when they first arrive at the camps. Thanks to the exertions of the officers the cholera is now well in hand. The total reported death-roll amounts to 1,635 persons, but the actual mortality must have been very much larger. The epidemic was very severe while it lasted, and the organisation on the works will take some time to recover from the dislocation caused by the scare. This is all the more to be regretted, as the administration had attained a marked degree of efficiency. The task system was almost universal, and the staff on most of the large works were able to pay attention to individuals.

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief have declined by 13 per cent. The decrease is confined entirely to the dependents on the works. Private charity is more active than ever. The details are given in the Resident's report. The larger jagirdars are now taking a fair share in helping the general distress. It will also be noticed with satisfaction that the Darbar has started a female orphanage, in which Lady Partab Singh is directly interesting herself.

4. The calls made on the Darbar in connection with returning emigrants are by no means light, and it is feared that these will increase during the current month. The Darbar has wisely resolved to assist all Marwaris who are still in Malwa, and have some cattle left. Only a proportion of these can be traced, but there are now two officials well supplied with funds in Gwalior and Bhopal, who have been given power to issue loans to emigrants with cattle, and to rail back all who are absolutely destitute. I am in correspondence with the railway authorities, with a view to securing privileged rates for the men and cattle, who will return on the arrival of the rains.

5. Imports of food-grains have actually increased during April. The total imports were sufficient to feed nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions of people for one month. The Resident reports that mortality among the cattle continues, but there cannot be very many left to die. The weight of hides exported in April represents approximately 25,000 animals, but the majority of these must have succumbed before the beginning of the month under report.

6. The yield of the rabi harvest was meagre everywhere, owing to the insignificant area the cultivators were able to sow. The high winds in the beginning of the month caused the grain to shrivel in the ear, and some of the grain was damaged by rain on the threshing floors. The total result of the harvest has had quite an inappreciable effect on the general situation.

Enclosure in No. 169.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 338 *G., dated Abu, the 7th May,* 1900.

I have the honour to submit Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of April, 1900, together with a skeleton map showing the famine-affected area.

2. The total number of labourers on 13 relief works under Mr. Home on the 25th April was 65,689, as compared with 96,614 employed during the preceding month.

The decrease of 30,925 persons is, the Darbar explains, chiefly due to the prevalence of cholera, the scare resulting from which has caused a number of

people to return temporarily to their villages. The expenditure on these works during the month was Rs. 1,99,998–11–0, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 7 pies per diem. The increase of 3 pies is said to be due to the introduction of task system on all these works.

7,207 dependents were also maintained on the above works at a cost of Rs. 7,303–12–6.

Thirty-two civil agency works afforded employment to 14,424 persons as compared with 10,440 persons in the previous month (showing an increase of 3,984) at a cost of Rs. 33,828–15–10. Their dependents numbering 496 were maintained at a cost of Rs. 375–14–1.

The majority of labourers on all the works continue to earn only the minimum ration, viz., men 12 chittacks, and women 10 chittacks.

Of the total number of labourers, viz., 80,113, 1,046 were employed on contract work on ordinary wage rates.

6,107 deaths occurred in famine camps, hospitals, and poor-houses, of which nearly 40 per cent. occurred at Dholera, and 13 per cent. at Bankli. I am glad to say cholera is decreasing in Marwar. During the month 324 persons fell victims to the disease in the city and suburbs of Jodhpur, and 1,311 persons in the districts and on relief works.

Four men and two women are reported to have died of starvation, of whom two were immigrants.

Captain Grant, I.M.S., reports that the physical condition of the people on the relief works continues good, and that the pay they receive is sufficient to buy food enough to maintain their physique unimpaired.

Owing to the outbreak of cholera, it has been impossible for Captain Grant to continue the weighment of persons at Pali, but he thinks that there is abundant evidence to show that the people do not expend all the wage they receive in buying food. I have asked the Darbar to enquire and ascertain the causes which give rise to the desire to put by money, adding that, if the poor people are actuated by any fear that they are likely to be suddenly turned adrift to starve when the first shower of rain falls, they might be re-assured on this point

The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief from the State on the 25th April was 24,558, including dependents, inmates of poor-houses and collecting camps; the cost of this relief is stated by the Darbar to be as follows :—

—	Rs.	a.	p.
Dependents	7,679	10	7
Poor-houses	14,646	5	3
Collecting camps	16,719	0	4

Lady Partab Singh has kindly interested herself in organising an orphanage for destitute girls. The Darbar has placed the Jalia garden with its buildings at the disposal of the Managing Committee, and agreed to bear the cost of feeding. The number of girls receiving relief is said to be 28.

The Darbar also distributed Rs. 1,033-3 among poor *pardah nashin* women during the month. The Oswald community in Jodhpur is said to have subscribed Rs. 3,400 to the relief of their distressed pardah women in the city.

The following statement shows the poor-houses kept up by the jagirdars of Marwar and their cost :—

Estate.	Number of doles issued.	Cost.
		Rs. a. p.
Asope	17,854	1,900 10 0
Chanode	9,130	672 0 0
Kuchawan	7,030	223 11 3
Raipur	4,974	446 5 0
Rean	2,323	51 9 0
Minda	2,146	36 5 6
Kherwa	966	56 9 0
Baru	448	22 8 0
Bhadrajun	3,018	118 6 0
Total	47,889	3,527 15 9

In addition to the above, private charity has also supported 9,204 persons in different parts of the State.

No emigration took place during the month. 628 persons were brought back from the Central India States at a cost of Rs. 2,334-7-6 and 2,895 persons from the Ajmer-Merwara district at a cost of Rs. 2,284-15-3.

3,932 persons are said to have voluntarily returned to their homes.

The drinking water-supplies are still sufficient. The recent rains brought about 4 feet of water into the Gulabsagar tank. This supply being polluted has since been condemned and allowed to run off. Grain-stocks are abundant. 318,377½ maunds were imported during the month as compared with 310,043½ maunds imported in March.

Prices of food-grains show a tendency to fall. Barley is selling at rates ranging from 8½ to 13½ seers per rupee.

The mortality among cattle still continues. During the month 4,192¾ maunds of hides were exported from Marwar against 8,436½ maunds exported in March. The Darbar contributed Rs. 1,600 to the Home opened for starving cattle in the city, in which 79 cattle are now taken care of.

Rain varying from 7 cents to 61 cents fell in most of the districts during the month, causing some damage to the rabi crops.

The Residency Surgeon, Jaipur, to whom the sample of Pilia Bhata stone was sent for analysis, informs me that the stone is called steatite (soapstone); its composition is hydrous silicate of magnesia; its alimentary effect is probably mechanical only, and acts as a diluent of real food, producing bulk and temporarily satisfying hunger: it has no nutritive value and might in some cases induce diarrhœa.

Annexure.

1. *Private relief.*—Private gratuitous relief was doled out at 32 places, where cooked khichra and parched gram were distributed to the poor. Their average daily strength was 9,024.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—State poor-houses are kept up at the cost of the Darbar at each Hakumat and on Departmental Relief Works for the non-working and the sick.

3. *Medical relief.*—The hospital, kitchen and conservancy arrangements are reported satisfactory. Cholera broke out at Marwar Junction and Jagrawas on the 24th and 27th ultimo, respectively, but precautionary measures taken did much to arrest its spread. The prevailing diseases are diarrhœa, dysentery and malarial fevers, and small-pox to a small extent. The number of persons in 10 hospitals on the last day of the month was 2,224.

4. *Physical condition and deaths from starvation.*—The majority of persons are in good condition. Four men and two women are reported to have died of starvation. Of these one died in a village, one in the town of Marote, and four on the high-road. One of them was Rajputani, and the caste of the others is not known; two of them were immigrants.

5. *General character of relief works.*—Digging, clearing and embanking of tanks; construction of bunds; renewing roads and sinking wells.

6. *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The water still holds out. The wells near Khokarya are being worked for the Jodhpur city. The recent rainfall brought in 4 feet of dirty water in Gulabsagar and impeded the passage to the well water reservoirs. A causeway has been thrown up in the tank, so as to enable the people to fetch uncontaminated water. Under this head Rs. 3,724-12-0 have been spent during the month.

Rabi crop.—In Nawan and Sambhar the outturn, considering the areas cropped was normal in the latter, while in the former it was damaged 2 annas in a rupee. The outturn was fair in Parbatsar, but in Marote it was only 14 annas. In Jaitaran, Sojat and Bali the crop was raised; it was slightly damaged by high and unseasonable winds except in the last. In Merta, Bilara, Pali, Siwana, Jaswantpura, Jodhpur, Pachbadra, Mallani, Didwana, Shergarh and Nagore it yielded a fair outturn. In Jalore and Sanchore a slight damage was done by the winds and bad weather. The rest of the parganas had no rabi.

8. *Rates of wages—*

—	As. p.	As. p.
Male...	from 1	3 to 1 9
Female	„ 1	0 „ 1 6
Children over 7 years	...	... 1 0
„ under 7 „	...	... 0 6
„ in lap	...	... 0 3

9. *Prices of food-grains.—*

—	Minimum.	Maximum.
	Sr. ch.	*Sr. ch.*
(1) Wheat...	5 4	10 12
(2) Bajri	8 0	10 4
(3) Gram	7 8	12 12
(4) Moong...	5 6	9 10
(5) Mokki...	8 4	9 12
(6) Jowar...	8 0	11 0
(7) Barley...	8 8	13 8
(8) Oil	1 14	3 7

10. *Condition of the cattle.*—The mortality amongst cattle still continues; 79 poor emaciated cattle are taken care of in the Bit-Dharmada Institution. Rs. 1,600 have been contributed by the Darbar.

11. *Emigration.*—Nil.

Immigration,—The Motamid has sent from Central India States 237 persons at a cost of Rs. 1,012-6-0. A Motamid is being sent to rail off 344 people to the new 'Ava collecting camp from the Delhi division. The Jaipur Darbar has been asked to rail off 80 Marwari inmates of the poor-house to 'Ava.

The Motamid sent to advance taccavi in Bhopal and to send back the excess number of agriculturists has sent by rail 391 people at a cost of Rs. 1,322-1-6.

From the Ajmer district 2,895 persons were imported at a cost of Rs. 2,284-15-3.

3,932 persons are said to have returned of their own accord.

12. *The grain equivalent of wages in chittacks:* —

——	High.	Medium.	Low.
Men	16	14	12
Women	14	12	10
Children	6	4	2

13.—*Number of labourers on contract.*—Out of 80,113 labourers, 1,046 were engaged on contract.

14. *Expenditure:*—

——	Amounts.		
	Rs.	*a.*	*p.*
RELIEF WORKS.			
(1) Departmental	1,99,998	11	0
(2) Civil Agency...	33,828	15	10
(3) Dependents	7,679	10	7
Total	2,41,507	5	5
GRATUITOUS RELIEF.			
Poor-houses...	14,646	5	3
Maoowaras	16,719	0	4
Dispensaries	12,066	5	1
Pardah Nashin	1,033	3	0
Total	44,464	13	8

No. 170.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2475-F., dated Abu, the 14th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2157-F., dated the 15th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Marwar State for the month of May, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter No. 426-G., dated the 4th June, 1900.

* Not printed.

2. The marginal table gives the numbers on relief during the last nine months. The figures for the month under report have been taken from the Famine Statement which forms an enclosure to this letter, and show a marked diminution of 20 per cent.* The figures represent the numbers as returned for the 25th May, but the weekly statement for the week ending the 26th May gives the following detail :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per Cent.
1899.				
September ...	10,985	2,263	13,248	·5
October	26,025	4,614	30,639	1·21
November ...	39,207	10,719	49,926	1·97
December ...	78,084	13,790	91,874	3·63
1900.				
January	73,232	18,370	91,602	3·62
February ...	105,264	23,510	128,774	5·09
March	106,699	28,237	134,936	5·34
April	80,113	24,558	104,671	4·14
May	74,086	9,273	83,359	3·30

———	Number.
Workers	72,969
Dependants	7,609
Relieved in villages	11,604
„ „ kitchens	9,134
„ „ rest camps	8,230
Total	109,546

If these statistics are correct, there has really been an increase of 4,875 persons or 4 per cent. on relief of all kinds. As far as can be gathered from the monthly report the returns are defective. The figures of persons relieved in villages, kitchens and rest camps appear to have been omitted. A reference is being made to the Resident on the subject.* There can be no doubt, however, the numbers both on the large Public Works Department works and those supervised by Civil Agency, have fallen off. The reasons as stated by the Resident are the cholera panic and the abnormal rain which attracted so many people to their fields for the sowing of early bajra and the coarser kind of pulses. Numbers of these deserters may possibly return to the works during the month. Much depends on the falling of further showers. Cholera had been stamped out on all the works but recently re-appeared in the rest camp at Marwar Junction.

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief at their homes have evidently increased. This is a natural result of decline on works at this period of a famine. The women's home and the girls' orphanage have both expanded their operations but no details of the numbers relieved have been furnished. The numbers assisted by Jagirdars appear to be slowly rising.

4. The Darbar have been active in bringing back Marwari emigrants from foreign territory. During the month under report 3,953 persons were railed back from Central India, Delhi, Palanpur, Erinpura, Jaipur, Ajmer and Beawar, at a cost of Rs. 11,944 or Rs. 3-0-4 per head. During April the total thus brought back was 3,523. The numbers who are reported as having returned of their own accord have increased this month by 119 per cent. 8,612. This total will probably be exceeded during June. No particulars have been

* See later letter on page 198.

given of the cattle which returned. The Traffic Managers of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and the North-Western Railways have been good enough to reduce their rates for returning emigrants, but the Agent and Manager of the Indian Midland Railway will be unable to reduce his rates until the grain traffic declines in July.

5. The mortality among the surviving cattle continues in spite of all efforts to save them. The numbers in the "Bit-Dharmada" (animals' home) in Jodhpur, are steadily rising and the Mahajans of Nagpore are keeping a considerable number of cattle alive. The weight of hides exported in May represents only 9,870 animals as compared with the equivalent of 25,000 animals in April. Imports of food grains have increased by nearly 18 per cent. but prices show a tendency to rise. Thanks to the recent rain, the water-supply, except in isolated tracts, is holding out, but if the monsoon rains set in late, the deficiency will be felt generally. Arrangements have been made to supply cultivators with over ten thousand hand ploughs before the monsoon bursts.

Enclosure in No. 170.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Abu, No. 426-G., dated Abu, the 4th June, 1900.

I have the honour to submit Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of May, 1900, together with a skeleton map showing the famine affected area.

The total number of labourers on 12 relief works under Mr. Home on the 25th May was 61,111, as compared with 65,689 employed during the preceding month.

The decrease of 4,578 persons is attributed partly to the panic caused by the outbreak of cholera and partly to the return of the workers to their houses under the belief that recent showers of rain was a prelude to the bursting of the regular monsoon.

The expenditure on these works during the month was Rs. 1,66,705-2-6, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 4 pies per diem.

7,665 dependents were also maintained on the above works at a cost of Rs. 6,008-1-6, giving an incidence of 4·2 pies per head per diem.

36 Civil Agency works afforded employment to 12,975 persons as compared with 14,424 persons in the previous month (showing also a decrease of 1,449) at a cost of Rs. 29,038-6-6.. Their dependents numbering 284 were maintained at a cost of Rs. 158-2-3.

The majority of labourers on all the works continued to earn only the minimum ration of 12 and 10 chittacks.

Of the total number of labourers, viz., 74,086, 1,448 were employed on contract work on ordinary wage rates.

Captain Grant, I.M.S., reports that the physical condition of the people on the relief works continues good, except in the case of recent arrivals and persons who persist in wandering about from place to place, and that the ration they receive is adequate to maintain their physique unimpaired.

In the 11 Famine dispensaries, 1,781 persons were receiving medical treatment on the last day of the month. Small-pox and cholera have decreased on all the works. The total reported deaths from all causes numbered only 2,680 against 6,107 in the previous month. No deaths from starvation were reported during the month.

In the Jagirdar estates 3,035 persons were maintained on relief works and 46,890 doles were distributed during the month.

The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief in the State poor-houses was 9,273, the cost of which is stated by the Darbar to be Rs. 15,184-5-3, giving an incidence of 1 anna 1 pie per head per diem.

At the Chensuk-ka-Bara, Rajput women are fed and clothed and similar relief is given to orphan girls at Jalia garden, but their number is not given though these institutions are said to have cost the Darbar Rs. 772-10-0 during the month.

Amongst the parda nashin women Rs. 1,105-11-3 were distributed by the Darbar.

The number of persons fed on private charity was 11,300, which probably indicates that some of the deserters from the relief works have taken refuge in these charitable institutions.

1,204 persons were brought back from the Central India States, Jaipur, Palanpur, and Delhi, at a cost of Rs. 3,064-14-3, and 2,749 persons from the Ajmere-Merwara District at a cost of Rs. 8,879-9-4. 8,612 persons are said to have voluntarily returned to their homes.

* 1. Nawa.
2. Sambhar.
3. Jalore.
4. Sankra.
5. Pali.
6. Parbatsar.
7. Maroth.
8. Didwana.
9. Desuri.
10. Jodhpur.
11. Barmer.
12. Sheo.
13. Pachbodra.
14. Nagore.
15. Merta.
16. Shergarh.
17. Siwana.

The drinking-water supplies are still sufficient. During the second and third weeks of May there has been rain in 20 Parganas. In Bali, Phalodi, and Jaswantpura it was inappreciable, and in the other 17* it was measured from 36 cents. to 1 inch and 77 cents. In the Nawa, Sambhar, and Jalore Parganas the ploughing of land for the khariff has commenced here and there and in some places bajra has been sown.

The prices of food grains show a tendency to rise. Barley is selling at rates ranging from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{4}$ seers per rupee, and mukki from 9 to $9\frac{3}{4}$ seers.

The following table shows the movement of food grains and hides from and to Marwar :—

——	Maunds.
Grain and pulses exported from Marwar ...	219
Grain and pulses imported into Marwar ...	375,434¼
Hides exported from Marwar	1,645

Annexure.

Remarks by Sukh Deo, the Famine Secretary, Rajputana, Marwar.

1. *Private relief.*—Private gratuitous relief was doled out at 29 places where cooked "khichra" and parched gram were distributed to the poor. The daily average number of persons fed in these charitable institutions was 10,139.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—There are 42 State poor-houses kept up at the cost of the Darbar at each Hakumat and on Departmental relief works for the non-working and the sick. The number of persons fed gratuitously in 42 poor-houses on the 25th May was :—

Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
2,889	3,114	3,270	9,273

3. *Medical relief.*—The hospital, kitchen, and conservancy arrangements are reported to be satisfactory. Bowel complaints continue to be the commonest causes of illness. Small-pox has greatly decreased. Cholera has subsided on all the works, where it prevailed

during the last month, though it is reported to have re-appeared at Marwar Junction—most probably due to the influx of the newly imported cases from the out-districts. Precautionary measures adopted are attended with good results. It, however, broke out in Mallani and made a sad havoc at Bandra for a few days. There it has also now been brought under control. The number of persons in 11 Famine dispensaries on the last day of the month was 1,781.

4. *Physical condition and deaths from starvation.*—The majority of workers are in good condition. Persons who have been wandering about suffer greatly from debility.

No death is reported to have occurred from starvation during the month.

5. *General character of relief works.*—Digging, clearing, and embankment of tanks; construction of Bunds; renewing roads: and sinking wells.

6. *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The water still holds out, though sinking fast.

The Khokarya water-scheme for Jodhpur is being successfully worked, though indications are not wanting of its water-supply being on the decrease. Under this head Rs. 3,478 have been spent during the month.

* 1. Nawan.
2. Sambhar.
3. Jalore.
4. Sankra.
5. Pali.
6. Parbatsar.
7. Maroth.
8. Didwana.
9. Desuri.
10. Jodhpur
11. Barmer.
12. Sheo.
13. Pachpadra.
14. Nagore.
15. Merta.
16. Shergarh.
17. Siwana.

Mostly during the second and third weeks of May, there has been rain in 20 districts. In Bali, Phalodi, and Jaswantpura it was inappreciable, and in the other 17* it registered from 36 to 177 centimetres. It has been conducive of very little good. In Jalore, Nawan, and Sambhar, clearing and ploughing of land for the next khariff has commenced to a small extent, and some have gone even so far as to sow the bajra.

For the construction of 10,500 hand ploughs Rs. 15,700 have been advanced to the carpenters so that these implements may be in the hands of the agriculturists before the rains set in.

8. *Rates of wages*—

	As. P.	As. P.
Male from	1 3 to	1 9
Female from	1 0 ,,	1 6
Children over 7 years		1 0
Children under 7 years		0 6
In lap		0 3

9. *Prices of food grains*—

	Minimum.	Maximum.
	Sr. ch.	Sr. ch.
(1) Wheat	6 8	10 12
(2) Bajri	7 4	9 11
(3) Gram	5 12	11 12
(4) Moong	5 0	8 12
(5) Mukki	9 0	9 12
(6) Jawar	6 8	10 0
(7) Barley	8 8	12 4
(8) Oil	2 2	2 15

10. *Condition of the cattle.*—High mortality among the few remnants still continues. 110 poor emaciated animals are taken care of in the Bit-Dharmad Institution. 1,000 maunds of grass are being imported from the Government forests, Central Provinces. The cost of the importation will be borne by the Darbar. Rs. 700 has been sent in advance on this account.

11. *Emigration and Immigration.*—Nil.

Three Motmids were sent to bring back our people, who were reported to be in distress in the out-districts.

The Motmid deputed to bring persons from Central Indian States has sent by rail 522 persons at a cost of Rs. 2,021-15-0.

The Motmid deputed to Delhi has brought back 304 persons at a cost of Rs. 1,042-15-3.

At the representation of the Political Agent, Malwa, a Motmid has lately been sent to take charge of the Marwari inmates of the poor-houses at Agar, Mundsore and Ujjain. He has already sent 77 persons from Mundsore.

Our Vakils at Palanpur and Erinpura have drafted 172 and 6 persons respectively to the relief works in our territory.

The Jaipur Darbar railed 123 Marwaris to Awa.

From the resting camps at Ajmer and Beawar 2,749 people were imported at a cost of Rs. 8,879-9-4.

It will thus appear that 3,953 persons have been brought back at the State cost for Rs. 11,944-7-7.

Over and above this number 8,612 people are reported to have returned voluntarily at their own cost.

12. *The grain equivalent of wages in chittaks*—

——	High.	Medium.	Low.
Men	16	14	12
Women	14	12	10
Children	6	4	2

13. *Number of labourers on contract.*—Out of 74,086 labourers 1,448 were engaged on contract.

14. *Expenditure*—

——	Amount.
1.—Relief Works.	*Rs. a. p.*
(*a*) Departmental	1,66,705 2 6
(*b*) Civil Agency	29,038 6 6
(*c*) Dependents	6,166 3 9
Total	2,01,909 12 9
Gratuitous Relief.	
(*a*) Poor-houses	15,184 5 3
(*b*) Masowaras	16,277 13 3
(*c*) Dispensaries	5,924 1 3
(*d*) Purdanashin	1,105 11 3
Total	38,491 15 0

Intimation has been received that the Indian Charitable Fund Committee has been pleased to allot Rs. 1,30,000 for distribution in Marwar. The Darbar takes this opportunity to express the deep sense of gratitude which its subjects feel towards the generous donors of the fund.

No. 171.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2838-F., dated Abu, the 15th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2475-F., dated the 14th June, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Marwar State for the month of June, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter No. 525, dated the 5th July, 1900.

2. The statistics of the numbers on relief during the last ten months are brought together in the marginal table. It will be seen that the numbers on relief in May are very much larger than those given in the report for that month. A reference to the Resident has elicited the correct figures. These show an increase in relief units of 4·6 per cent. instead of a decrease of 20 per cent. as reported in my letter quoted above. During the month under report the numbers on works are shown as having risen by nearly 5 per cent. But this increase appears to be fictitious as the details given in the report of the Durbar seem to indicate that dependents have been included for the first time under "works." The following table contrasts the details for the two months and gives a more accurate idea of the fluctuations :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
1899.				
September ...	10,985	2,263	13,248	·5
October ...	26,025	4,614	30,639	1·21
November ...	39,207	10,719	49,926	1·97
December ...	78,084	13,790	91,874	3·63
1900.				
January ...	75,232	18,370	91,602	3·62
February ...	105,264	23,510	128,774	5·09
March	106,699	28,237	134,936	5·34
April	80,113	24,558	104,671	4·14
May	74,086	35,570	109,596	4·34
June	77,622	23,063	100,685	3·98

Months.	Workers.			Dependants.			Jagir relief works.	Grand total.
	Public Works Department.	Civil Agency.	Total.	Public Works Department.	Civil Agency.	Total.		
May	61,111	12,975	74,086	7,665	284	7,949	3,035	85,070
June	54,814	13,417	68,231	7,644	360	8,004	1,387	77,622
Difference ...	−6,297	+442	−5,855	−21	+76	+55	−1,648	−7,448

There is a marked decline in the number of workers under the Public Works Department, but the number of their dependants has remained practically stationary. The persons relieved on the Civil Agency works on the other hand have increased. On the Jagirdars' works the numbers have fallen by more than half. All the fluctuations point to the same conclusion that there has been a tendency on the part of the able-bodied men to desert the works for their fields leaving their weaker relatives to be looked after by the State. The camps on the Rajputana Malwa railway for the purpose of doubling the line have been

* Not printed.

closed and the labour on the Shadapali extension has shrunk to half its former total. Last month I was able to report that cholera has been stamped out on all the works, but during June I regret to say it reappeared in the Mallani district where sporadic cases are still occurring.

3. As I anticipated in the review of last month's statement the totals of the gratuitous lists had actually increased in May, although owing to the change made in showing dependants with workers a drop of 12,447 or 35 per cent. is returned. The actual decrease, however, amounts to only 4,463 persons or 12 per cent. The figures for May and June are contrasted below :—

Detail.	May.	June.
Poor-house kitchens	9,273	7,108
On Jaipur estates	3,035	2,166
By village doles	11,300	9,780
In rest-camps	3,953	Not given.
Total	27,561	19,054

The rest-camp figures have not been given but would appear to be 4,009. As usual no details have been given of the operations of the women's home and children's orphanages or of the Agency which throughout has been distributing relief to the respectable poor in the capital and large towns. Till the end of May the numbers relieved by the Jagirdars, whether on works or gratuitously, steadily rose. This gradual development was checked during June and the numbers under both heads have appreciably fallen.

4. The emigrants are still being brought back or are voluntarily returning from the east in large numbers. During June no fewer than 9,765 persons were railed back from Central India and Palanpur as compared with 5,953 in May and 3,523 in April. The numbers reported as having returned of their own accord on the other hand have fallen to 4,114 which is barely half of the May total. I ventured to foretell an increase in this class of returning emigrants during June, and certainly over 5,000 have passed through the relief depôts on the Neemuch high road alone. Many of these doubtless joined the Jodhpur depôt at Ajmer, only too glad to find that the Darbar Agents were prepared to be responsible for the last part of their journey.

2,428 head of Marwari cattle were sent back by train at the cost of the State by the Agents accredited for this purpose to Gwalior and Bhopal. 96 animals also were purchased by the State, but no particulars are given of the herds of cattle which were marched back by their owners. These must have reached approximately a total of 5,000 head, and the special famine officers attached to the States through which they passed have all reported that the animals they have seen fed at the relief depôts were in good condition and ready for the plough. The one anxiety now is to provide sufficient fodder for these cattle until natural grazing is available. Money is not wanting for outside purchasers, but I again read complaints of congestion on the Rajputana Malwa Railway, while on parts of the Jodhpur Bikaner line the manager finds it difficult to run the usual number of daily trains owing to want of water.

5. The condition of the people continues fairly good and there is no deterioration of physique noticeable among those in the relief camps. Small-pox has entirely disappeared and cholera is confined in a mild form to the Mallani tract. The success with which the epidemic was fought is largely due to widespread and prompt disinfection of the drinking water supplies and to their being guarded wherever possible, by a special staff. The improvement in the general health is sufficiently indicated by a fall in the attendance in famine

dispensaries of 12 per cent. during June. The condition of the few cattle which have struggled to keep alive all through the famine months shows no improvement.

The net imports of food grains have risen during the period under report by 68 per cent. to 631,873 maunds, an amount sufficient to feed two-thirds of the population for one month. The hide traffic has fallen off by nearly 20 per cent. In all but seven pargannas showers of rain temporarily raised the water level in the wells, partially filled some of the village tanks and enabled an appreciable quantity of early bajra and pulses to be sown. But the delay in the arrival of the regular monsoon has caused the water level again to fall, while the hot winds have practically destroyed all the young crops which had germinated so well.

Enclosure in No. 171.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, Jodhpur, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Mount Abu, No. 525, *dated Mount Abu, 5th July,* 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of June, 1900, together with a sketch map showing the famine affected area.

The total number of labourers on 12 relief works under Mr. Home on the 25th June was 54,814, as compared with 61,111 employed during the preceding month. The decrease of 6,297 persons is attributed to the return of agriculturalists to their homes to prepare their lands for the Kharif crop owing to the fall of rain in some of the districts.

The expenditure on these works during the month amounted to Rs. 1,39,913-14-5, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna, 3·8 pies per diem. 7,644 dependents were also maintained on the above works at a cost of Rs. 6,138-12-8, giving an incidence of 4·8 pies per head per diem.

38 Civil Agency works afforded employment to 13,417 persons as compared with 12,975 persons in the previous month at a cost of Rs. 32,948-9-9. Their dependents, numbering 360, were maintained at a cost of Rs. 149-10-4.

19 new works were opened against 15 completed.

The number of labourers on 9 relief works in the jagirdars' estates was 1,387.

The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief in the State was 23,063. Of these 7,103 were fed by the State at a cost of Rs. 16,362-8-9, and 2,166 persons by the jagirdars.

The institutions at Chan-suk-ka-Bera and Jalia garden were maintained by the State at a cost of Rs. 1,466-2-9, but no details of the numbers relieved have been given.

Amongst the Parda Nashin and respectable persons Rs. 1,130-2-6 were distributed.

The number of persons fed at 26 private kitchens was 9,780 as compared with 11,300 in the preceding month.

The vast majority of the men and women on all the works continued to earn only the minimum ration of 12 and 10 chittacks.

Captain Grant, I.M.S., reports that the physical condition of the people on relief works continues good, and that the ration they receive is adequate to maintain their physique unimpaired. In the 9 Famine Dispensaries 1,563 persons received medical treatment at a cost of Rs. 5,632-11-0, excluding the establishment charges, which amounted to Rs. 9,178-15-0.

Small-pox has disappeared, while cholera has decreased on all the relief works, except those in the Mallani District, where it still lingers, though its virulence has much abated.

On the relief works there were 597 attacks and 290 deaths from cholera during the month of May. These figures are remarkably small, considering that the epidemic had spread to all the works, on which about 80,000 persons were employed. This satisfactory result is ascribed to the constant disinfection of wells with permanganate of potash, and the arrangements made for the prevention of the water being polluted.

No deaths from starvation were reported during the month.

The drinking water supplies are reported to be still sufficient. The first fortnight brought in good showers of rain in the districts of Phalodi, Jodhpur, Bilara, Merta, Bali, Nawa and Nagour. These were of some benefit, inasmuch as they kept up the water level and filled some of the village tanks. Ploughing and sowing were taken up in earnest as the people began to expect early rains. Bajra sown in some districts in May last promised well, but the high winds, which have been blowing of late, have had a withering effect on it.

The Districts of Jalore, Jaswantpura, Puchbhadra, Sewana, Sheo, Mullani, and Sankra have had no rain during the month.

The prices of food grains slightly fell in 7, continued steady in 7, and rose in 9 districts. Barley is selling at rates ranging from $8\frac{1}{4}$ to 12_{16}^{9} seers per rupee and makki from 9 to $9\frac{3}{4}$ seers.

The following statement shows the movement of food grains and hides from and to Marwar during the month :—

——	Maunds.
Grain and pulses exported from Marwar ...	$2{,}361\frac{3}{4}$
„ „ imported into Marwar ...	6,34,234
Hides exported from Marwar	$1{,}322\frac{3}{4}$

385 persons were brought back from the Central India States, Jaipur and Palanpur in addition to 3,095 cattle owners brought by rail from Malwa at a cost of Rs. 4,193-13-0, and 6,285 persons from the Ajmir-Merwar Districts at a cost of Rs. 5,378-11-3. 4,114 persons are said to have voluntarily returned to their homes.

2,428 head of cattle were brought back by rail from Malwa, at a cost of Rs. 18,456-9-0, or Rs. 7-9-8 per head, and 96 bullocks were purchased for Rs. 1,571-10-9, giving an average cost per head of Rs. 16-6-0.

The Motamids at Jaipur, Ajmir and Beawar have been provided with grass and straw to replenish the fodder supply of the returning emigrants. They are said to have 2,898 cattle with 631 maunds of grass and 708 maunds of straw.

The condition of cattle returning from Malwa is reported to be excellent.

In the Bit Dharmada Institution 76 emaciated cattle are fed and tended, and the Darbar has contributed Rs. 550 to its aid.

Rai Seth Oomed Mal Lodha, Banker of Ajmir, generously sent a second famine donation of 200 ghagras and 200 kurtas to be distributed to the famine-stricken people in Marwar.

Annexure.

Remarks.

1. *Private charity.*—This stream of relief appears to have its flow slightly diminished.

The daily average number of persons fed at 26 private kitchens fell to 9,780.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—The number of persons fed gratuitously in 37 poor-houses on the 25th June was :—

Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
2,202	2,445	2,461	7,108

Their maintenance cost Rs. 16,362-8-9.

The institution at Chan-Suk-ka-Bera and Jalia garden were maintained by the State at the cost of Rs. 1,466-2-9.

Over and above this, amongst the pardanashin and respectable persons, Rs. 1,130-2-6 were distributed.

The number of inmates in 10 Thikana poorhouses was as follows :—

Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
965	667	534	2,166

3. *Medical relief.*—The hospital, kitchen, and conservancy arrangements are reported to be satisfactory. Great care is being taken to prevent pollution.

Bowel complaints continued to be the commonest causes of illness.

Small-pox has disappeared. Cholera has altogether subsided except on works in the Mallani district where it still lingers, though its virulence has much abated. The number of deaths from cholera fell to 532. The number of deaths from other causes continues to decrease. The satisfactory result is to be ascribed to the constant disinfection of wells, and the careful arrangement which the Executive Officer has made to prevent the water supply from contamination.

The number of patients in nine famine dispensaries on 25th June was 1,563.

4. *Physical condition and deaths from starvation.*—The condition of the people is satisfactory. The majority, exclusive of persistent wanderers, look well and fit.

No death is reported to have occurred from starvation during the month.

5. *General character of retief works.*—Digging, clearing, and embanking of tanks; construction of bunds; renewing roads and sinking wells.

6. *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected areas.*—The first fortnight of June brought good showers of rain at Phaladi, Jodhpore, Bilara, and Merta, and a downpour between 50 and 75 cents. in Bali, Nawan, and Nagore. It extended its blessings more sparingly to the other 10 parganas, and ignored the remaining seven parganas, viz., Jalore, Jaswantpura, Pachpadra, Siwana, Sheo, Mallani, and Sankra. It was conducive of some good as far as it kept up the water level, which was sinking fast and filled some of the village tanks. Fairly good rains aggregating to more than two inches, brought on by local atmospheric disturbances, have filled the tanks in and about the city, so the Khokarya water supply arrangement was stopped on the 7th June; Rs. 357-3-3 were expended under this head.

The Bajra sown in some districts at the end of May has a promising growth, but the high winds that have been blowing of late have tended in withering them.

Rs. 2,300 more were expended for hand ploughs.

8. *Rates of wages* :—

——	As. P.	As. P.
Male	from 1 3	to 1 9
Female	„ 1 0	„ 1 6
Children :—		
Over 7 years	—	1 0
Under 7 years	—	0 6
In lap	—	0 3

The weak and emaciated labourers are paid in grain and not in cash on all the Civil Agency Works, so as to give them full benefit of the relief allowance.

9. *Price of food grains* :—

	Minimum.		Maximum.	
	Seers.	Chitacks.	Seers.	Chitacks.
(1) Wheat	6	4	10	12
(2) Bajri	7	4	7	8
(3) Gram	8	8	11	7
(4) Moong	5	4	7	8
(5) Mukki	9	0	9	12
(6) Jowar	5	4	8	2
(7) Barley	8	4	12	0
(8) Oil...	2	4	2	12

10. *Condition of the Cattle.*—The mortality among cattle still continues abnormal.

Hearing of a pretty general shower of rain in May and at the commencement of June in Marwar, the emigrants with their cattle began to return. Their condition was excellent. The Durbar has undertaken to book at its own cost the surviving Marwar cattle. 2,428 head of cattle were brought back by rail from Malwa at a cost of Rs. 18,456-9-0.

The Motamids at Jeypur, Ajmir, and Beawar have been provided with grass and straw to replenish the fodder supply which the returning emigrants as a rule carry in their carts on their march back to their homes. They have helped 2,898 cattle with 631 maunds of grass and 708 maunds of straw. In the Bit-Dharmada Institution 76 emaciated animals are fed and tended, and Durbar has contributed Rs. 550 in its aid.

11. *Emigration and Immigration.*—Nil.

The return of the people through the resting camp located in the Ajmer district continued, and 6,285 people were drafted on relief works at the cost of Rs. 5,378-11-3.

3,095 cattle owners were railed off from Malwa at a cost of Rs. 4,193-13-0. The Motamid, deputed to Malwa, sent by rail 288 Marwaris from Ujjain.

The Durbar Vakilat, Erinpura, drafted 95 persons on one relief work at a cost of Rs. 39-10-9.

Two persons were imported from Jeypur costing Rs. 2-3-0.

Over and above this, 4,114 persons are reported to have returned without availing themselves of the Durbar aid.

No. 172.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3062 F., dated Abu, the 9th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2838 F., dated the 15th July, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Marwar State for the month of July, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter No. 675 G., dated the 4th August, 1900.

* Not printed.

2. The statistics of the number in receipt of all kinds of State relief are brought together in the marginal table. During the month under report the numbers on works fell off by 23 per cent. Early in June the sound policy was inaugurated of gradually contracting the large Public Works Department works, and expanding the number of petty works administered by civil agency in the various districts. The full effect of this policy was not apparent a month ago, because while the figures for the large works had fallen, the numbers relieved by civil agency had remained stationary. The following table gives the details for the last three months, and illustrates the changes which have been going on :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
September ...	10,985	2,263	13,248	·5
October ...	26,025	4,614	30,639	1·21
November ...	39,207	10,719	49,926	1·97
December ...	78,084	13,790	91,874	3·63
1900.				
January ...	73,232	18,370	91,602	3·62
February ...	105,264	23,510	128,774	5·09
March	106,699	28,237	134,936	5·34
April	80,113	24,558	104,671	4·14
May	74,086	35,570	109,596	4·34
June	77,622	23,063	100,685	3·98
July	59,450	19,938	79,388	3·14

Months	Workers.			Dependents.			Jagir relief works.	Grand Total.
	Public Works Department.	Civil agency.	Total.	Public Works Department.	Civil agency.	Total.		
May...	61,111	12,975	74,086	7,665	284	7,949	3,035	85,070
June	54,814	13,417	68,231	7,644	360	8,004	1,387	77,622
July	37,719	15,499	53,218	4,242	793	5,035	1,197	59,450
Difference between June and July.	− 17,095	+ 2,082	− 15,013	− 3,402	+ 433	− 2,969	− 190	− 18,172

The decline on the Public Works Department works in July has been nearly three times as great as in June, while on petty works we find an increase of 15 per cent. The totals on works have fallen by 23 per cent. and the dependents have declined by 37 per cent. This was only to be expected. The majority of the cultivators on the works naturally preferred to bring their young and infirm relations with them, and the figures indicate that throughout the famine the majority of the dependents have been agriculturists. The recent rain has induced only this class to leave. It has had little appreciable effect on the artisan or urban workers, whose dependents have always been able to count on receiving support in the large centres of population to which they belong.

During the period under report two of the Public Works Department works have been closed, leaving 10 open. The tendency of the jagirdars to curtail their operations at the earliest possible date which was noted last month has been maintained and the numbers have again fallen.

3. The gratuitous relief figures also show a decline, but only of 13 per cent. There appears to have been an increase of nearly 2,000 persons on the State kitchens lists, but under every other head, except orphanages, there is a marked decline. Private charity is also being contracted. The orphanages are well managed, and the inmates have been gradually increasing in numbers. The boys are being prepared to earn their future livelihood, and the girls are taught arithmetic and sewing.

4. Emigrants have continued to return, but the total brought back last month by the State has fallen considerably.

The following table gives the recorded figures during the past four months :—

Tract from which brought back.	April.	May.	June.	July.
Central India States	628	599	3,383	—
Ajmer and Beawar	2,895	2,749	6,285	2,031
Jaipur	80	123	2	1
Erinpura and Palanpur	—	178	95	434
Bharatpur	—	—	—	78
Delhi	—	304	—	—
Total brought back	3,603	3,953	9,765	2,544
Total returned voluntarily...	3,932	8,612	4,114	5,300
GRAND TOTAL ...	7,535	12,565	13,879	7,844

The number brought back by the State in July fell to one-quarter of the June total. The statistics of persons who voluntarily returned are, I believe, inaccurate and below the mark, but show, so far as they go, that the majority of the people have reverted to their homes. No details have been given of the number of cattle brought back by their owners, nor have reports yet been received from all the relief depôts along the high roads from the east and north, but not less than 2,500 head may be assumed to have returned.

5. The condition of the people generally has been fair, but the wanderers are described as emaciated. Cholera has almost disappeared and the death-rate at the famine relief centres has fallen by over 17 per cent. as compared with a decline in the total relief units of 19 per cent. The number of patients treated in famine dispensaries declined by 17 per cent. Cattle are still in a very poor condition, and general grazing up to the end of July was not available. Hide exports declined by one-half.

The net import of food-grains has fallen by 32 per cent. No rain fell during the first 10 days of the month, and the early bajra crops suffered from the hot winds and want of moisture. On the 11th July the monsoon broke feebly giving general light rain, except in the south-western corner of the State. The tanks partially filled, the water level rose in the wells and the bajra which I described last month as practically destroyed, revived in a surprising way. But the monsoon current was weak and stopped altogether after a few days giving place to hot westerly winds. At the time of writing, however, a fresh and stronger burst of the monsoon has set in giving good showers to Malani and Sheo which had had no rain for 12½ months. Agricultural operations have been vigorously taken in hand over two-thirds of the State, and no pains are spared by the Darbar to help the people. Their action in this direction, as indeed in every other branch of relief, has been both generous and wise, reflecting great credit on Rao Bahadur Pandit Sukhdeo Prashad who is largely the pivot on which the administration turns.

Enclosure in No. 172.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 675 G., dated Abu, the 4th August, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of July, 1900, together with a skeleton map* showing the famine-affected area.

2. The total number of labourers on 10 relief works under Mr. Home on the 25th July, was 37,719, as compared with 54,814 employed during the preceding month. The decrease of 17,095 persons is attributed to the return of workers to their homes to start agricultural operations. There was a sudden decrease during the week ending on the 21st July, due to the rainfall of the preceding week.

The expenditure on these works during the month amounted to Rs. 1,20,650-11, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 4·5 pies per diem.

4,242 dependents were also maintained on the above works at a cost of Rs. 4,261-5-6, giving an incidence of 4·6 pies per diem.

29 civil agency works afforded employment to 15,499 persons, as compared with 13,417 persons in the previous month. The increase of 2,082 persons is attributed to the opening of small village works for providing labour to the cultivators nearer their homes. The total expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 34,566-12-9. Their dependents, numbering 793, were maintained at a cost of Rs. 297-8-6.

The average daily number of labourers employed on 8 jagir relief works was 1,197, but the cost of their maintenance is not stated by the Darbar.

3. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief in the State and Jagirdars' poorhouses was respectively 9,040 and 1,944 persons, and their maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 15,044-13-6 and Rs. 3,494-6-0, respectively.

There are two orphanages, one for girls and the other for boys, situated in the suburbs of Jodhpur city, in which 110 girls and 476 boys received gratuitous relief at a cost of Rs. 1,054-10-0, during the month.

At Chain-sukh-ka-Bara 420 respectable Rajput women were maintained at a cost of Rs. 1,738-10-6.

At Nawa, Didwana, Nagore, Shergarh and Jodhpur Rs. 434-7-3 were distributed among 795 respectable men and women during the month.

The number of persons fed daily at 24 private kitchens was 7,797 as compared with 9,780 during the previous month.

4. The number of patients in the nine famine dispensaries on the 25th July was 1,287, and their diet charges amounted to Rs. 4,311-15-0 in addition to the establishment charges of Rs. 2,457-4-9.

Diarrhœa, dysentery and debility with anæmia continued to be the commonest diseases. Cholera has mostly disappeared from the works. There were only 115 deaths from this disease during the month.

The condition of the people who have been on works for some time is good, but some emaciated persons are seen among the wanderers.

No deaths from starvation were reported during the month, though there were 1,693 deaths from famine diseases in relief camps against 2,047 during the last month.

5. The first half of July was quite rainless. The holding off of the rains had not only caused serious anxiety, but had also somewhat damaged the already sown bajra crop.

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* Map not reproduced.

About the middle of July monsoon-like weather set in unexpectedly and allayed the general apprehension concerning the prospects of the kharif crops.

The total rainfall from 1st June to 25th July in each district has been noted below :—

District.	June.	July.	Total.
Bali	0·75	3·34	4·09
Nawa	0·51	3·18	3·69
Marote	0·40	2·74	3·14
Sambhar	0·17	2·78	2·95
Merta	1·22	1·65	2·87
Jaitaran	0·30	2·46	2·76
Pali	0·45	1·86	2·31
Desuri	0·30	1·94	2·24
Sankra	—	2·06	2·06
Jaswantpura	—	2·03	2·03
Jodhpur	1·33	0·70	2·03
Sojat	0·35	1·68	2·03
Phalodi	1·55	0·30	1·85
Bilara	1·33	0·30	1·66
Nagore	0·50	1·00	1·50
Parbatsar	0·19	1·20	1·39
Didwana...	0·17	0·83	1·00
Shergarh...	0·20	0·66	0·86
Jalore	—	0·58	0·58
Siwana	—	0·33	0·33
Barmer	—	0·10	0·10
Sanchore...	0·20	0·15	0·35

The three districts of Sheo, Pachbadra and Malani were rainless up to the 25th July, but since then some rain has fallen there, which has allayed the anxiety to a certain extent.

The water level in the wells has appreciably risen, and the village tanks in 18 districts have been partially filled.

The ploughing and sowing for the kharif have commenced in twelve districts and partially so in six. The bajra sown in the first fortnight of June is said to be progressing well in four districts. Duststorms and high winds have done some damage to the rising crops.

6. Owing to the delay in the advance of monsoon currents, the prices of food-grains had risen. Barley is selling at rates ranging from $8\frac{1}{4}$ to $11\frac{3}{4}$ seers per rupee and makki at 9 seers.

There has been no change in the scale of wages since the submission of the last report.

7. The following statement shows the movement of food-grains and hides from and to Marwar during the month :—

—	*Maunds.*
Grains and pulses exported from Marwar	334
Do. imported into do.	4,24,745¾
Hides exported from Marwar	629¾

8. The Darbar Vakils at Erinpura and Palanpur railed 434 Marwaris to Marwar Junction at a cost of Rs. 267-11-6. The Bharatpur Darbar also sent 78 Marwaris from the poor-house there. 2,031 persons were brought back from the Ajmer-Merwara district at a cost of Rs. 6,209-9-0. 5,300 persons are said to have returned to their homes without State assistance.

9. Two Motamids, who were deputed to Rutlam and Jaora, purchased 372 bullocks at an average price of Rs. 15-12-3. Their carriage by railway to Marwar Junction amounted to Rs. 2,694-7-3. The Motamid at Jaora also booked 85 head of cattle belonging to Marwari agriculturists at a cost to the Darbar of Rs. 713-5-0.

A Motamid has gone to Hissar to select the best stallion bulls from the Government cattle farm there.

The Motamids at Jaipur, Ajmer and Beawar have helped the returning cattle with 769 maunds of grass and 36 maunds of straw.

In the Bit-Dharmada Institution 83 emaciated cattle are fed and looked after.

Rs. 545-2-0 were paid to the Raja of Parour in Shahjehanpur on account of the transit charges of the 500 maunds of grass supplied by him for free distribution among the cultivators in Marwar.

Annexure.

Remarks.

1. *Private charity.*—As observed in the last month's report, this source of relief is continually diminishing. 7,797 doles against 9,780 of the previous month were on the average daily distributed at 24 places.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—The inmates of the 34 poor-houses on the 25th July, numbered :—

Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
2,597	3,267	3,167	9,040

Their maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 15,044-13-6, costing 10·7 pies per head per day.

In the two orphanages situated in the suburbs of the city, the number of boys and girls was 476 and 110, respectively. The total expenses amounted to Rs. 1,054-10-0, which would be partially borne by the Indian Charitable Fund.

Attempts are made to initiate the male orphans into agriculture. The girls are taught elementary arithmetic and needle-work.

At Chen-sukh garden 420 respectable Rajput women were maintained at the cost of Rs. 1,738-10-6. The sum would be partly defrayed by a subsidy from the Charitable Fund.

Over and above this Rs. 434-7-3 were distributed amongst the *pardah nashin* and respectable persons, who numbered 795 on the 25th July.

There were 10 poor-houses maintained by the Jagirdars. Their average daily strength was 1,944 and total expenditure Rs. 3,494-6-0.

3. *Medical relief.*—The number of patients in nine famine dispensaries on the 25th July was 1,287. The dietary charges aggregated to Rs. 4,311-15-0, costing 1 anna and 6·9 pies per head. Establishment and other charges were Rs. 2,457-4-9.

Diarrhœa, dysentery and debility with anæmia continued to be the commonest diseases. Cholera has mostly disappeared from the works. The hospital, kitchen and conservancy arrangements are reported to be satisfactory. Medical comforts are now being given on a liberal scale. Water-supply at works is sufficient, of good quality and well looked after.

4. *Physical condition and deaths from starvation.*—The condition of the people is satisfactory. The majority, exclusive of some persistent wanderers, is well and fit.

No death is reported to have occurred from starvation during the month.

5. *General character of relief works.*—Digging, clearing and embanking of tanks, construction of bunds, renewing roads and sinking wells.

6. *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—About the 11th July, monsoonish weather set in unexpectedly and allayed the general apprehensions concerning the prospects of the kharif crops.

The water level in the wells has appreciably risen and the village tanks in 18 parganas are partially filled. The ploughing and sowing for the kharif have commenced in right earnest in 12 parganas and partially in 6. The bajra sown in the first fortnight of June is progressing well in four parganas. Duststorm and strong winds did some damage to rising crop.

Ploughs and a pair of bullocks with sufficient funds for seed grains are advanced as "taccavi" to the needy agriculturists, but those who are quite destitute are paid subsistence allowance as well. Four agricultural farms have been opened at Pali, Balotra, Marwar Junction and Dhanlerao, to bring the available fiscal area under cultivation by means of hand ploughs. To facilitate the distribution of "taccavi," 17 district committees have been formed with the Hakims as Presidents. Rs. 4,500 have already been advanced.

8. *Rates of wages—*

—	a. p.	a. p.
Male from	1 3	to 1 9
Female from	1 0	to 1 6
Children over 7 years		1 0
„ under 7		6
„ in lap...		3

9. *Prices of food-grains—*

—	Minimum.	Maximum
	sr. ch.	sr. ch.
(1) Wheat	6 8	9 13
(2) Bajra	6 4	9 4
(3) Gram	6 8	10 12
(4) Mung	4 12	8 4
(5) Makki	7 4	10 8
(6) Jowar	5 12	9 8
(7) Barley	8 4	11 12
(8) Oil	2 0	2 14

10. *Condition of the cattle.*—The mortality amongst cattle is appreciably decreased, yet it continues abnormal. In the Bit-Dharmada Institution 83 poor and emaciated cattle are fed and looked after.

The grass supplied to the returning Marwar cattle by the Motamids at Ajmer, Beawar and Jaipur was supplemented to a great extent by that distributed at the famine grass depôts established by the provincial charitable committee. There were three grass depôts at Marwar Junction, Merta and Jodhpur, which continued to supply grass to the cattle.

11. { *Emigration— and Immigration—* } Nil.

The emigrants continued to return through the resting camps at Ajmer and Beawar. As many as 2,031 people were sent to relief institutions from the Ajmer district at the cost of Rs. 6,209–9–0. The Darbar Vakils at Erinpura and Palanpur have railed 434 Marwaris to Marwar Junction at a cost of Rs. 267–11–6. The Bharatpur Darbar has sent back 78 Marwari inmates of the poor-house there. Their railway fare amounted to Rs. 144–6–3. One man was drafted to the relief camp in Sambhar by our Vakil at Jaipur. His feeding and conveyance cost annas eleven. Rs. 823 were remitted through our Vakil at Erinpura to the local poor-house fund in payment of feeding the Marwari inmates.

No. 173.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3290 F., dated Abu, the 14th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3062 F., dated the 9th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements* of the Western Rajputana States Residency for the month of August, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letters, Nos. 788, 791, and 794 G., dated, respectively, 4th and 5th September, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief of all kinds during the last twelve months in Marwar are brought together in the marginal table. The total number of relief units is now approximately the same as it was in September, 1899, while the number of workers is the lowest on record. The figures which represent the statistics of the 25th August do not quite agree with those of the weekly famine relief statement of the same date. I have accepted the former as correct. The great majority of the workers were employed on the larger Public Works Department projects, those relieved on the petty works under Civil Agency aggregating under 200. All works in the Jagir area were closed during the month.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per-centage.
1899.				
September ...	10,985	2,263	13,248	·5
October ...	26,025	4,614	30,639	1·21
November ...	39,207	10,719	49,926	1·97
December ...	78,084	13,790	91,874	3·63
1900.				
January ...	73,232	18,370	91,602	3·62
February ...	105,264	23,510	128,774	5·09
March ...	106,699	28,237	134,936	5·34
April	80,113	24,558	104,671	4·14
May	74,086	35,570	109,596	4·34
June	77,622	23,063	100,685	3·98
July	59,450	19,938	79,388	3·14
August ...	5,067	8,266	13,333	·52

3. The number of persons relieved gratuitously has fallen by more than one-half. It is not easy to ascertain how the total under this head given in column 7 of the famine statement has been arrived at. But village gratuitous relief appears to have ceased altogether, and the total appears to represent persons maintained in poor-houses, orphanages, and relief kitchens. One

* Not printed.

satisfactory feature of this branch of the relief is an increase in the number of girl orphans who have been rescued. The home for *pardah nashin* women which has done so much good was closed on the 13th August.

4. The drafting of wanderers to their homes still continues, but this class appears now to be chiefly represented by professional beggars and persons belonging to the lower castes, who have adopted mendicancy as the easiest mode of making a living. Paragraph 11 of the remarks appended to the relief statement gives a total of 13,556 people, presumably Marwaris, in the resting camps at Ajmer and Beawar. One-fourth of these were taken on to the relief lists, and the remainder sent to their homes, but numbers will doubtless drift back to the railway line, and the large centres of population. The following table gives the statistics of this branch of operations during the last five months :—

Tracts from which emigrants and wanderers brought back.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.
Central India States	628	599	3,383	—	—
Ajmer and Beawar	2,895	2,749	6,285	2,031	13,556
Jaipur	80	123	2	1	—
Erinpura and Palanpur	—	178	95	434	606
Bharatpur	—	—	—	78	—
Punjab	—	304	—	—	—
Total brought back	3,603	3,953	9,765	2,544	14,162
Voluntarily returned ...	3,932	8,612	4,114	5,300	200
GRAND TOTAL	7,535	12,565	13,879	7,844	14,362

The number brought back at the expense of the State is the largest on record for any State in Rajputana. No mention is made of any cattle having returned in August, and the relief depôts on the Central India route report that the few emigrants now passing through westward have no animals with them.

5. The condition of the people has considerably improved. The early bajra will soon come on the market, and the other crops are thriving. Pasturage is abundant, and the surviving cattle are in good condition. The Darbar have acted very wisely in procuring twenty picked stallion bulls from the Government cattle farm at Hissar, which have been sent out in the different districts. The special famine officers have spent the greater part of the month in distributing the charitable fund grants. From Lieutenant Menzie's report it appears that the taccavi advances in jagir areas have been few and far between, and, therefore, cultivation has been restricted. In the khalsa villages, except where the district officer happens to have been apathetic and lazy, the area under kharif crops is normal. The famine officer was struck while on tour by the number of plough cattle which had been kept alive in the south-western parganas.

6. As relief operations have practically closed in Jaisalmer, the usual relief statement has not been submitted. These operations have lasted just over ten months, and the expenditure has been kept well within the loan granted by the Government of India for the purpose. Eleven orphans are still maintained at the capital, and 147 persons are in receipt of charitable doles to enable them to await the ripening of the harvest.

7. The Resident now reports that the deaths from cholera in June and July amounted to 2,057, and not to 891 as stated in last month's report. The

health of the people is generally good. Rain has fallen everywhere, and the crop report for last week just received shows that further heavy showers have been received. The majority of the emigrants to Sind have not yet come back, but the return movement has set in. On their return, the State will have resumed its normal condition.

8. The marginal table gives the numbers on relief in the Sirohi State during the last nine months. From the largest total reached during the famine in July, the number of workers had fallen to practically nil in August. All relief works have now been closed. The total in receipt of gratuitous relief has fallen by over one-third. All persons leaving the works and poor-houses received a four days' maintenance money, and were told to report themselves to their Tahsildars for taccavi loans should their circumstances entitle them to assistance of this kind. A central orphanage has at last been established, and the employment of non-commissioned officers belonging to the Erinpura Irregular Force has resulted in an improvement in the poor-house management.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per-centage.
1899.				
December ...	1,498	6	1,504	·83
1900.				
January ...	2,283	53	2,936	1·61
February ...	5,033	176	5,209	2·86
March ...	5,879	862	6,741	3·70
April	7,261	1,763	9,024	4·90
May	3,375	1,275	4,650	2·55
June	7,589	1,629	9,218	5·06
July	9,751	1,638	11,389	6·26
August ...	5	1,048	1,053	·58

9. Abundant rain has fallen all over the State. The tanks are full, and several streams and rivers have overflowed their banks. Cases of cholera are few, but dysentery is prevalent. 300 head of cattle have been imported by the State. The Darbar are prepared to make more extensive purchases, but animals are not easily obtainable. The crops are flourishing, but require sun, and grazing is ample.

10. During August famine may be said to have come to an end in the Western Rajputana States. Although the monsoon was delayed, there has been exceptionally heavy rain since it set in. Although the area put under cultivation is below the normal, the excellent rainfall promises to make the outturn one of the largest on record. The grass crop is the best known for years. Cholera has not yet been stamped out, but is mainly confined to Jodhpur and some other towns. Malarial fever may be expected later.

Enclosure 1 in No. 173.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 788 G., dated Jodhpur, the 4th September, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of August, 1900, together with a skeleton map showing the famine-affected area.

Sufficient and general rain has fallen throughout the State, which has removed all anxieties regarding the autumn crops and improved the condition of the affected area and population. The fall was unusually heavy in most of the districts, but slightly in defect at Pachbadra, Nagore, Phalodi and Sankra.

2. There were only six departmental works open on 25th August under Mr. Home, on which 4,332 persons were employed, as compared with 37,719

employed in July last. The number on these works steadily fell from week to week, and this is attributed to the resumption of their normal occupation by the people.

The expenditure on these works during the month amounted to Rs. 47,988-0-6, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna and 9·6 pies per diem.

536 dependents were also maintained on the above works at a cost of Rs. 1,381-15-3, giving an incidence of 4·9 pies per head per diem.

Two new Civil Agency works were added to the 29 which were in progress on the 25th July. Of these 26 were closed before the 16th August. With the advent of the monsoon, the famine conditions generally disappeared, and the number of labourers on these works dwindled down to 199 workers with no dependents on the 25th August, as compared with 15,499 workers with 793 dependents on the 25th July.

The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 10,650-11-3 during the month, giving an incidence of 1 anna and 4·1 pies per head per diem.

The average daily strength of the labourers employed on jagir works also fell from 1,197 to 404 persons.

3. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief in the State poor-houses was 5,930, and their maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 13,918-12-9.

The two central orphanages continued to take care of the famine orphans at Jodhpur, the number of girls rose from 110 to 150, and that of boys fell from 476 to 340. Their combined charges amounted to Rs. 1,747-13-9.

The zenana poor-house for respectable Rajput women at Chainsukh-ka-Bara was closed on the 13th August, and each inmate was given Rs. 5 as an advance for her maintenance during the next two months. The expenditure on this institution from the 26th July to the date of its closing was Rs. 972-9-6.

Rs. 354-9-0 were distributed amongst the *pardah nashin* women at Jodhpur, Nagore and Didwana, and Rs. 1,715-9-0 were contributed by the Darbar towards the maintenance of a charitable orphanage at Guran-ka-Talao.

Four Jagirdars maintained their own poor-houses, in which the daily average number of persons maintained was 622, which is less than one-third of the number fed in the previous month.

There were only four organised private poor-houses open on 25th August, the number of their inmates being 653 as against 7,797 during the previous month.

4. Three famine dispensaries were closed before the 25th August and in the remaining six the daily average number of patients treated was 946. The diet charges amounted to Rs. 4,108-2-6, in addition to the establishment charges of Rs. 1,988-11-0.

The same diseases, as mentioned in the previous report, continued to be common. Cholera has again appeared in the towns of Phalodi, Balotra, Pokaran and in Jodhpur City, causing 649 deaths between the 26th July and the 25th August. Captain Grant, I.M.S., attributes the increase of cholera in Jodhpur City to the people drinking water from tanks in preference to using well water, in spite of the publication of frequent warnings of the danger so incurred.

The condition of the people is now rapidly improving. The water-supply at relief works was sufficient and well guarded from pollution.

No deaths from starvation were reported during the month. The number of deaths reported from famine and other diseases fell from 1,693 last month to 1,258 this month.

5. Ploughing and sowing have been general throughout the State. The bajra sown early in June has grown to a fair height and will soon be ready for harvest. Young seedlings have appeared everywhere, and weeding operations

are in progress. Cotton and late autumn crops are being sown. In Mallani, Pachbadra and Sheo ploughing commenced very late.

The prospects of the outturn of the kharif crops are favourable, and if rain falls in September they should be excellent.

In Sojat and Jaitaran hand ploughs were in general use, while in Desuri and Bali the hard soil had to be dug up and prepared with spades and hoes for sowing.

6. Owing to the improved agricultural situation, the prices of food-grains have fallen in most of the districts, though no change in the price of the cheapest edible grains has occurred.

The latest prices are:—

Food Grains.	Per British Rupee.
Barley	9 to 15 seers
Jowar	6 to $8\frac{15}{16}$ „
Maize	$9\frac{3}{4}$ „
Millet	$8\frac{1}{4}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ „

There has been no change in the scale of wages.

The following statement shows the movement of food-grains and hides from and to Marwar during the month :—

—	Mds.
Grain and pulses exported from Marwar ...	1,160
Grain and pulses imported into Marwar ...	$140{,}158\frac{1}{4}$
Hides exported from Marwar	458

7. The Darbar Vakils at Erinpura and Palanpur deported 606 Marwaris by rail to Marwar Junction at a cost of Rs. 636-5-3. The Darbar has remitted Rs. 390 for the deportation of certain Marwaris, who are said to be at Gwalior, Baroda and Patiala, and have directed the Hakim of Jaswantpura to take over 40 persons, who are in the Sirohi poor-house.

The rest camps at Ajmer and Beawar were crowded with Marwaris, who were mostly pauperised vagrants and persistent wanderers. Of these 3,874 were drafted on to relief centres, while others were sent to their homes.

The Jodhpur City was cleared of 5,075 waifs and strays. The amount spent on their feed and conveyance came to Rs. 12,680-2-0.

8. 20 stallion bulls were bought from the Government cattle farm, Hissar, at a cost of Rs. 3,000, and sent to the different districts to improve and gradually to restore in numbers the country breed, which has suffered so severely during the past 10 or 12 months.

Owing to a general and abundant fall of rain, green grass is now obtainable everywhere, hence the grass depôts have been closed. They had supplied fodder weighing 490 maunds to 2,610 head of cattle during the period they remained open.

9. Taccavi advances both in cash and kind have helped in extending the cultivated area. The total amount distributed from the 26th July to

25th August was Rs. 40,439-6-9, in addition to 35 bullocks and 193 hand ploughs.

Subsistence allowance, varying from 15 to 30 days' rations, were given to all agricultural labourers who returned from departmental relief works to their homes and took to agriculture.

Annexure.

Remarks.

1. *Private charity.*—2,637 doles, against 7,797 of the previous month, were on the average daily distributed at 24 places.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—The inmates of the 28 poor-houses on the 25th August numbered—

Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1,696	2,334	1,900	5,930

Their maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 13,918-12-9, costing 11·4 pies per head per day.

The two central orphanages continued to take care of famine orphans. The number of girls rose to 150 against 110, and that of boys fell from 476 of the last month to 340.

Their combined charges came to Rs. 1,747-13-9.

The zenana poor-house for respectable Rajput women was closed on the 13th. Each inmate was given Rs. 5 as an advance for her maintenance during the next two months. The expenditure incurred on it from the 26th ultimo to the date of its closing was Rs. 972-9-6.

Rs. 354-9-0 were distributed amongst the *pardah nashin* at Jodhpur, Nagore and Didwana.

Rs. 1,715-9-0 were contributed by the Darbar towards the maintenance of an orphanage at Guran-ka-Talao.

Four Thikanas maintain their own poor-houses. Their average daily strength was 622.

3. *Medical relief.*—The number of patients in six famine dispensaries was 946. The dietary charges were Rs. 4,108-2-6, costing almost 2 annas per head per day. Establishment and medical comforts were responsible for Rs. 1,988-11-0.

The same diseases as mentioned in the previous report continued to be common.

Cholera has disappeared, except in the Lalsagar poor-house, which is situate in the vicinity of the city, where it has been virulently raging for the last fortnight.

The hospital, kitchen and conservancy arrangements continued to be satisfactory. The water-supply at works was sufficient and was well guarded from pollution.

4. *Physical condition and deaths from starvation.*—The condition of the people is considerably ameliorated.

No death is reported to have occurred from starvation during the month.

5. *General character of relief works.*—Digging, clearing and embanking of tanks; construction of bunds; and sinking wells.

6. *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Sufficient and general rain fell throughout the country and swept away all anxieties regarding the autumn crops. The fall was unusually heavy in Desuri, and in slight defect at Pachbadra, Nagore, Phalodi and Sankra.

Standing crops continue to do well. The bajra sown early in June has grown to a full height and will soon be ready for harvest. Sowing operations for late autumn crops continue.

It might be observed without fear of contradiction that famine has nearly approached its end, and, if a seasonal fall of rain occurs in September, the country with its verdant pastures and green crops would present a startling contrast to its once barren and gloomy appearance.

8. *Rates of wages*—

——	As.	P.		As.	P.
Male ... ... from	1	3	to	1	9
Female ... ... from	1	0	to	1	6
Children over 7 years				1	0
Children under 7				0	6
Children in lap				0	3

9. *Prices of food grains*—

——	Minimum.		Maximum.	
	Sr.	Ch.	Sr.	Ch.
(1) Wheat	6	11	11	12
(2) Bajra	8	0	11	8
(3) Gram	6	4	11	4
(4) Moong	5	7	8	10
(5) Makki	7	0	12	0
(6) Jowar	5	7	11	8
(7) Barley	8	4	15	0
(8) Oil	2	0	3	0

10. *Condition of the cattle.*—Owing to a general downpour of good rain all over the country, green grass is now available everywhere, and the cattle are improving satisfactorily.

In the "Bit Dharmada" Institution, 14 unclaimed cows remained on the 25th, and the rest were restored to their owners.

11. *Emigration.*—Nil.
Immigration.—Almost all the emigrants had returned before the end of July, 1900, and hence only 200 persons were reported to have come back. 13,556 persons were numbered in the resting camps at Ajmer and Beawar. Of these 3,874 were drafted on to relief centres, while the rest were sent to their homes, except 205 who died and 164 who were present on the 25th August.

Our Vakils at Palanpur and Erinpura deported 606 Marwaris to Marwar Junction.

Enclosure 2 in No. 173.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 791 *G., dated Abu, the* 5*th September*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Sirohi Darbar's Famine Report for the month of August, 1900, together with a skeleton map of the famine-affected area.

2. There has been a general and copious rainfall throughout the State during the month. At Sirohi proper it measured 11·55 inches. People have taken to agricultural operations, and sowings and weeding, &c., are progressing satisfactorily. Green grass is procurable in sufficient quantities, and the cattle are regaining their strength.

3. There were 5 persons on the relief works on the 25th August against 9,751 in the preceding month. The relief works have had, therefore, to be closed. People leaving works or poor-houses received feeding expenses for the

journey and for 2 or 3 days extra. On arrival at their homes they had orders to report themselves to the Tahsildars who distributed taccavi advances if deemed necessary.

4. Mr. Knight, in charge of the State Famine Relief Works, reports that 300 pairs of plough cattle have been purchased by the State, and arrangements are in hand for their distribution.

5. Some Rs. 15,000 have been advanced as taccavi.

Special advances are also being made from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to Rebaris and others who have lost their all.

The final issue of taccavi and the distribution of bullocks will, it is hoped be completed by the end of this month.

6. The number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief has decreased from 1,638 to 1,048. The decrease is due to the fact that the inmates when fit are sent to their houses and given food expenses ; and also taccavi as above explained.

The number of persons on village doles was 487 against 1,763 persons at the end of the previous month.

7. The amount spent on relief works and on gratuitous relief during the month is reported at Rs. 10,126.

8. The physical condition of the people on the works, with very few exceptions, was, Mr. Knight remarks, good.

Public health was, according to the Dewan, fair.

Cases of cholera were reported from some of the districts. Diarrhœa, dysentery and fever are also said to be prevailing in some districts of the State.

464 persons are reported to have died on the relief works and in poor-houses against 704 in the preceding month.

There were 259 deaths reported from starvation among Bhils, Girassias and other wandering tribes.

9. An orphanage was opened at Sirohi during the month. There were 112 orphans and 74 widows in the orphanage on the 25th August, 1900. The expenditure under this head aggregated Rs. 600. The cost of the new building, which is under construction, is to be met from the Government famine loan granted to the State, while other expenses connected with the institution will be defrayed from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund grants.

10. The State has practically dispensed with the services of the famine staff.

11. The services of a Jemadar and Havildar have been secured from the Erinpura Irregular Force for famine duty in connection with the supervision of the State poor-houses at Abu Road and Rohera, and to superintend the drafting of persons in receipt of relief. Owing to the closure of the relief works, the number of these military famine officers was reduced to two.

12. Hand ploughs provided by the Darbar are not applied for, but some tools have been distributed gratis to persons leaving relief works.

13. The local Bohras held back at first, but when they found that the State was prepared to grant necessary advances, they came forward and made advances to their "Asamis" freely.

14. The prices of food-grains have fallen as shown beneath :—

——	In July.	In August.
Wheat	$8\frac{2}{16}$ srs.	$8\frac{1}{2}$ srs.
Barley	9 „	10 „
Makki	$7\frac{14}{16}$ „	8 „
Bajra...	$7\frac{1}{4}$ „	$7\frac{1}{2}$ „

15. The following table shows the comparative movement of food-grains and hides carried by the Rajputana-Malwa Railway :—

——	In July.	In August.
Weight of food-grains and pulses booked from the Sirohi State ...	3,704 mds.	5,519 mds.
Weight of food-grains and pulses received in the Sirohi State from outside the State	18,693 „	12,207¼ „
Weight of hides booked from the Sirohi State to stations outside the State	626 „	14 „

Annexure.

Letter from the Dewan, Sirohi State, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 921, *dated Sirohi, the* 1st *September*, 1900.

With reference to your No. 4,751, dated 26th December, 1899, I have the honour to r t as follows :—

(1) The subjoined table shows the number of relief works, and that of workers employed on each :—

Name of works.	Men.	Women.	Children, 14 to 10.	Children, 7 to 10.	Children, under 7.	Remarks.
Sirohi	4	—	—	—	—	On 13th August.
Chandela...	1	2	—	—	1	On 14th „
Sirohi-Pindwara Road... ...	4	1	—	—	—	On 25th „
Total	9	3	—	—	1	

The following statement would show the increase or decrease in the number of labourers on the works on 25th August, as compared with those in June last :—

Name of months.	Sirohi Tank.	Chandela Tank.	Sirohi-Pindwara Road.	Grand total.
July	6,414	396	2,941	9,751
August... ...	—	—	5	5
Total ...	—6,414	—396	—2,936	—9,746

As there were good showers of rain throughout the State, and people were given taccavi advances, they took to agricultural operations. Labour at the famine works began going away. Those who were left there were induced by officers specially deputed for the purpose to go home and to take to agricultural operations where they would get taccavi advances. Sirohi and Chandela tanks were closed on the 15th August, and Sirohi-Pindwara road on the 28th.

(2) The following table shows the number of poor-houses in the State, and that of their inmates on the 25th instant :—

A.

Name of poor-houses.	Class of Inmates.					Total.
	Men.	Women.	Children.			
			10–14	7–10.	Under 7.	
Sirohi poor-house	47	10?	47	63	13	272
Rohera ditto	128	109	44	23	42	346
Erinpura ditto	26	42	40	35	10	153
Abu Road ditto	106	80	38	31	22	277
Total	307	333	169	152	87	1,048

The following table would show the increase or decrease in the number of inmates of different poor-houses, as compared with that in the last month :—

B.

Name of poor-houses.	July.	August.	Increase or Decrease.
Sirohi poor-house	682	272	—410
Rohera ditto	538	346	—192
Erinpura ditto	163	153	—10
Abu Road ditto	255	277	+22
Total	1,638	1,048	—590

The decrease in the number of inmates of poor-houses is due to the persons going out from there and taking to agricultural operations. Besides this, natural jungle products have and are being sprung up, which helps people to maintain themselves.

(3) Water-supply at the works had been ample and sufficient.

(4) Stock of grain was also sufficient there.

(5) Public health has been tolerably fair. Few cases of cholera reported from Mandar, Pamera, Jhora, Khuni, and Sirohi. Measures for cleanness were adopted. Dysentery and fever prevalent on some tahsils. Health at the works and poor-houses has been fair.

(6) The following table would show the number of deaths (*a*) from starvation and (*b*) also on works and poor-houses :—

A.

Name of village.	Number of deaths.
Pindwara	131
Sirohi	98
Abu Road	2
Posalia	8
Total	239

B.

Name of works.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Increase or decrease.
Sirohi Tank	30	39	21	90	— 4
Chandela Tank	—	—	—	—	— 69
Sirohi-Pindwara Road	—	—	—	—	—
Sirohi poor-house	47	46	36	129	+ 16
Rohera poor-house	75	45	27	147	—155
Abu Road poor-house	32	27	16	75	+ 26
Erinpura poor-house...	7	9	7	23	+ 13
Total	191	166	107	464	—173

(7) Condition of cattle changing for better.

(8) Grass growing.

(9) 11 inches 35 cents of rain fell at Sirohi during the month under report. Sowing operations progressing.

(10) No emigrations reported.

(11) No change in the rates of wages.

(12) The price of wheat has fallen ; no perceptible change in that of other grains.

(13) Sadabarts at the temple of Sharneswarji and Sayer continued. The number of persons on village doles was reduced to 487 ; private charity was continued.

(14) Taccavi advances were made to the agriculturists in almost all the tahsils and are still being given. The sum of Rs. 15,261-14-6 has been advanced up to this time. 300 pairs of bullocks have been sent for through Messrs. Abbott Brothers. The bullocks were and are being distributed to cultivators. Advances are being made to Robaries, so that they may purchase cattle to support themselves.

(15) An orphanage has been opened at Sirohi. There were 112 orphans and 74 widows in the orphanage on the 25th.

(16) Usual statements and skeleton maps * are attached herewith.

Enclosure 3 in No. 173.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 794 G., dated Jodhpur, the 5th September, 1900.

I have the honour to report that during August, 1900, there has been a general rainfall over the famine-affected area in Jaisalmer, which has brought an ample supply of water into the nadis, tanks, and kharins, and the people have undertaken agricultural operations. Grass has grown everywhere, and the condition of the cattle is improving. Kharif crops have been sown and are reported to be thriving well. The details of the rainfall are noted below :—

——	June.	July.	August.	Total.
Jaisalmer Circle	—	0·57	2·05	2·62
Dewa „	—	2·77	3·98	6·75
Ramgarh „	—	0·49	0·30	0·79
Khabha „	—	0·68	1·14	1·82
Devikot „	—	0·60	1·26	1·86
Bap „	1·40	1·15	3·32	5·87
Total	1·40	6·26	12·05	19·71

* Map not reproduced.

2. Relief works and the gratuitous relief have been closed, as the people left for their homes in order to resume their occupations.

On the 20th August, 1900, the number on relief works was 209, but on 25th idem there was none either on the relief works or on the poor-house relief. 11 children are, however, maintained in the orphan house, and 147 persons are in receipt of gratuitous relief or village doles met from the Local Charitable Relief Fund.

3. The Famine Expenditure during the month amounted to Rs. 4,153, of which Rs. 232 were spent on gratuitous relief. Out of the famine loan of Rs. 50,000 British currency, Rs. 46,550 in Jaisalmer currency have hitherto been spent.

4. Emigration has altogether stopped, and the people are returning to their homes from Sind and other adjoining districts.

5. The situation is thus sufficiently encouraging, and the Dewan hopes that a further rainfall will fully restore the condition of the affected area.

6. In July last 6,141 maunds of food-grains were imported, against 9,828 maunds in June. Notwithstanding the decrease in imports, the prices have gone down considerably as shown below :—

	In July.	In August.
Wheat	7¼ seers.	8½ seers.
Bajra	7½ „	9 „
Jowar	7¾ „	9½ „
Rice	6 „	7 „
Gram	7 „	8 „

7. The physique of the people is reported to be satisfactory.

The total number of deaths from cholera during June and July, according to fresh and reliable enquiries, were 2,257, and not 891 as reported previously.

The Hospital Assistant of Jaisalmer reports that the children in the orphanage are healthy, excepting one who is suffering from guinea worm.

8. Owing to the closure of famine relief works and the State gratuitous relief, the Dewan has not sent the usual Monthly Famine Statement or map for the month, hence this report has been prepared from the information available in this office, and, unless otherwise directed, will be the last of the series.

No. 174.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2338, F., dated Abu, the 30th May, 1900.

In continuation of this office letter No. 1893 F., dated the 23rd April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement† of the Kotah and Jhalawar States for the month of April, together with the Political Agent's covering letter No. 1262, dated 19th May, 1900.

2. *Kotah.*—The numbers in receipt of all kinds of relief during the last six months are brought together in the maginal table. In commenting on the

* *See* page 482 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per-centage.
1899.				
November ...	1,500	1,000	2,500	·34
December ...	4,370	2,278	6,648	·92
1900.				
January ...	13,462	4,332	17,794	2·47
February ...	20,207	5,077	25,284	3·51
March ...	21,569	9,827	31,396	4·36
April... ...	27,130	9,228	36,358	5·05

figures for the previous month, which had risen by only 6½ per cent., I ventured to predict that my next report would probably show a marked increase. This rise has now taken place. The numbers on relief works have advanced by over one-quarter to 27,130. The largest additions have occurred in the railway camps where the labourers have nearly doubled. By the end of the third week in April, 72⅓ lakhs of cubic feet had been completed out of a total of 401¼ lakhs. Approximately five-sixths of the work thus remains to be done. At the present rate of progression this will take seven months to finish, but the labourers will probably increase still further in number. The wages have been raised by 20 per cent., although the reasons for the increase have not been given. Even if the local rupee is constant and prices are steady, the change is a wise one. The rate per 1,000 cubic feet under ordinary conditions of lead and lift is still only Rs. 3-12. The other relief works open consist of wells, which are usually constructed by the aid of loans, petty irrigation works and a few roads and buildings. These are partly under the State Department of Public Works and partly under the local Nazims. The numbers employed in this way have risen by 8 per cent. during the month under report.

3. It was stated in last month's review that the Political Agent's remarks to the effect that the ordinary labour wages were lower than those paid on the works was not understood. In reply to an enquiry from this office, the Darbar explains that by the ordinary labour wage is meant the wage paid by private individuals for labour employed on their own buildings and works, and that it is a fact that this private wage is really lower than the relief works scale. If this is correct, and if private employers of labour do not supplement the cash wage with some remuneration in kind, then Kotah presents a contrast in this respect to the other States in Rajputana.

4. The numbers returned as in receipt of gratuitous relief have fallen by 6 per cent. to 9,228. It is not easy to ascertain how this total has been arrived at, as will be seen from the following table in which the statistics for the last three months, as corrected up to date, have been brought together :—

No.	Agency.	Numbers relieved in		
		February.	March.	April.
1	Village relief	2,127	3,938	3,410
2	Poor-house, Kotah	250	515	745
3	„ Ghatoli	—	600	450
4	„ Mandana	—		
5	„ Baran	—	537	825
6	Sadabarts of Jagirdars	unknown	2,640	?
7	Relief camp, Kotah	1,200	1,597	885
8	Orphanage and Cripples' home			313
9	Destitutes	1,500	Nil	Nil
	Total	5,077	9,827	6.628

The statement gives a total for April of 9,228, but the persons relieved by the Jagir Sadabarts are not shown anywhere in this month's return. This probably accounts for the difference between the total of the final column in the above table and that of the final column of the statement. The Political Agent's reply to a reference made regarding "destitutes" shows that Mr. Martindale was mistaken in assuming in a previous letter that these persons were identical with the residents of the Ganeshpal relief camp. The "destitutes" were poor wanderers, who were supported by daily issues of boiled jowar (gugri), the cost of which was borne equally by the State and private subscription. This form of relief came to an end in March, and the majority of the recipients were drafted on the railway where they receive cooked food.

5. The condition of the people generally is deteriorating. They lack the physical stamina of the dwellers in the arid tracts of Western Rajputana, and are quite unfitted by past experience to cope with the present calamity. The death-rate is slowly increasing. The only account of the recent harvest received up to date is that contained in the concluding remarks appended to the statement. The yield of the area sown is said to be only one-eighth of the normal. As presumably sowings were confined to well lands and small strips on the banks or rivers or tanks, the wide-spread failure this estimate implies is hard to credit. As the area brought under cultivation has not been given, it is impossible to say what effect the harvest has had on the food-stocks, but imports have not risen above the comparatively low level to which they fell during March. His Highness the Maharao continues to show a personal interest in relief measures, and spent 19 days camping in the districts.

6. *Jhalawar.*—The following table shows the fluctuations in the numbers on relief in Jhalawar during the last six months :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
November	400	250	650	·40
December	700	800	1,500	1·00
1900.				
January	1,155	769	1,924	1·28
February	2,351	2,127	4,478	2·98
March...	2,583	1,692	4,275	2·85
April	3,712	1,443	5,155	3·43

As during March the rate of increase on works, 43 per cent., is even higher than in Kotah, the same four large works are still open, and each has returned a rise in numbers. The workers on the Stratton Sagar have more than doubled, and the numbers on the large tank in the Patan Tahsil have gone up by 749, or 71 per cent. At the same time, the numbers relieved on the petty works administered by purely Civil Agency have fallen from 243 to 83. Altogether, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the population are now on State relief of one kind or another.

7. As in Kotah, the totals of the gratuitous lists have fallen. Last month a large decrease was reported from the two poor-houses in the Chaoni and Patan. During April, as will be seen from the following table, the numbers in Patan fell still further, while in the Chaoni they rose by as much as 213 per cent.

The other figures call for little comment, as no accurate account has been given of gratuitous village relief :—

Agency.	March.	April.
Poor-house, Patan	571	534
„ Chaoni	191	598
Orphanage	144	131
His Highness's poor-house	56	68
Village relief	730 ?	112 ?
Total	1,692	1,443

8. The general condition of the State and people is better than that of Kotah, but distress is spreading. The Dewan's remarks about fodder and water are almost identical with those in his March report, but the tone is somewhat more depressed. The account of the harvest is meagre, but the influx of the new grain on the market seems to have caused a temporary fall in prices. Statistics regarding the cattle are promised in the report for the current month.

Enclosure in No. 174.

Letter from Major C. G. F. Fagan, Political Agent in Kotah, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1262, *dated Kotah, the* 19*th May*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the Monthly Famine Reports furnished by the Kotah and Jhalawar Darbars for the month of April, 1900.

Kotah.—The total number of persons in Kotah on relief works and on gratuitous relief during the month was reported to be respectively, 27,130 and 9,228, as against 21,569 and 9,827 in March last. The number of labourers on the earthwork of Baran-Kotah Railway on 30th April, 1900, was 8,550, as against 4,352 on 31st March last. The increase shows the extent to which the pinch of famine is being felt by the people at this time. The total earthwork done up to 22nd April, 1900, was 7,235,000 cubic feet. The rate of wages has been raised during the month from 5 to 6 annas per 100 cubic feet for all banks up to 10 feet. For banks 10 to 20 feet 8 annas are given, and banks from 20 to 30 feet 10 annas.

The number of deaths from starvation or its after effects is reported to be 1,775, as against 975 in March last ; of these, 922 are among the local inhabitants, and 853 among immigrants. The physique of the people is deteriorating and the general suffering increasing.

No emigration among the people of the country has taken place.

General condition is bad.

Food stock is sufficient.

The rabi outturn of the Kotah State is estimated at not more than two annas, and that of the Jhalawar State reported to be about $3\frac{1}{4}$ annas in the rupee.

Jhalawar.—The number of persons in Jhalawar on relief works and on gratuitous relief is reported to be 3,712 and 1,443 respectively, as against 2,583 and 1,692 reported in March last.

The condition of the people, though far from satisfactory, is scarcely as bad as might have been expected.

Cattle suffer generally from scarcity of fodder.

Scarcity of drinking water is also felt in some places.

The deaths from starvation are reported to be 692, as against 286 in March last; of these, 531 occurred among local residents, and 161 among immigrants.

Skeleton maps in duplicate for Kotah and Jhalawar are enclosed.

Annexure.

Remarks by Raghwali Das, Dewan, Kotah State, to accompany Famine Statement for month ending 30th April, 1900.

Private relief.—The number in the poorhouse in the city of Kotah, where grain is doled out chiefly to *pardah nashin* women, rose from 515 in the last month to 745. Private charity in the district is kept up and relieves 2,000 persons.

Village and poorhouse relief.—The poorhouses started at Ghatoli and Mandana were maintained and relieved 450 persons. The numbers in the poorhouse at Baran have much increased. There were 825 inmates on the 30th, the highest number reached during the month being 865. A weekly selection is made, and all persons found able-bodied are struck off the House Register and drafted to the railway work. The monthly grants made to the district officers were devoted to the relief of 3,410 persons during the month. The Revenue Superintendent reported a large gathering of destitutes at Khandpur, and on his recommendation the monthly grant of Rs. 200 was raised to Rs. 450.

Relief camp at (Ganeshpal) Kotah had 885 inmates on 30th April, 1900, and the orphanage and cripples' house, 313.

The famine wanderers about Kotah were sent to the railway earthwork to earn their daily bread. They did not stay on and escaped, on the first opportunity they got, to resume their wandering life. To keep these at work, a camp has been established on the railway line, to which all the abled-bodied of them are sent. They are given here cooked food, and their wages credited to the camp. They do very little work, but the experiment has the great sanitary advantage of keeping the city free from their presence.

In the poor-houses the inmates were allowed the same rate of rations as was reported last month.

General character of relief works.—Taccavi, wells and other civil and relief works were pushed on, employing on them 18,580 persons. The earthwork of the Baran-Kotah Railway has made fair progress, the attendance on it being 8,550 on the 30th April. This is an increment of 100 per cent. over the last month, and shows the extent of the pinch of famine felt by the people at this time. The State Engineer reports that the total earthwork done up to the 22nd April was 7,235,000 cubic feet. This represents progress during the month of about 4,285,000 cubic feet, and the work is proceeding at the rate of nearly 1½ lakhs of earthwork per day.

Earthwork has been completed in the following chainage from Baran :—

45,500 to 72,300	= 26,800	feet
42,700 to 44,000	= 1,300	„
44,300 to 45,000	= 700	„
	28,800	feet,

or about 5½ miles.

Earthwork is in progress in chains—

93,700 to 99,300	= 5,600	feet
5,000 to 7,000	= 2,000	„
9,700 to 11,000	= 1,300	„
160,000 to 161,000	= 1,000	„
184,000 to 192,000	= 8,000	„
206,000 to 210,000	= 4,000	„
	21,900	feet,

or about 4 miles.

The rate during the month has been raised from 5 annas to 6 annas per 100 cubic feet for all banks up to 10 feet. For banks 10 to 20 feet, 8 annas is given, and banks from 20 to 30 feet, 10 annas.

Physique of the people is deteriorating and the general suffering increasing. His Highness was in camp for 19 days during the month, and visited the northern and central portions of the State.

The number of deaths reported was 1,775. They were either due to starvation direct or to its after effects. Of these 922 are among the local inhabitants and 853 among immigrants. Every endeavour is made to induce and encourage local people to resort to the railway earthwork, but so far with not much success.

Food-stock is sufficient.

Grain is imported freely, and the quantity brought in was equal to that of the last month, viz., 39,266 maunds.

General condition is decidedly bad.

No emigration among the people of the country has taken place.

Rabi harvesting is finished, and the outturn is not estimated at more than 2 annas in the rupee in the area sown. The rainfall has done no good.

No. 175.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2,541 F., dated Abu, the 21st June 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 2,338 F., dated the 30th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements* of the Kotah and Jhalawar States for the month of May, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 1,470, dated the 9th June, 1900.

2. The following table gives the numbers on relief for each month since operations began in November, 1899 :—

KOTAH.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
November	1,500	1,000	2,500	·34
December	4,370	2,278	6,648	·92
January	13,462	4,332	17,794	2·47
February	20,207	5,077	25,284	3·51
March	21,569	9,827	31,396	4·36
April	27 130	9,228	36,358	5·05
May	24,930	9,153	34,083	4·73

Last month, owing to the cessation of harvest operations, the numbers on relief works advanced by over one quarter. During May these have declined by 8 per cent. The decrease is attributed by the Political Agent to the return of people to their fields in anticipation of the monsoon and to the high mortality which has been aggravated by the cholera epidemic. Pending the result of the correspondence regarding a further Government loan, the Darbar have been forced to borrow eight lakhs in the open market for purposes of the administration and famine relief. The numbers on the railway works have risen by 38 per cent. to nearly 12,000. The persons employed on the other works increased by 8 per cent. during April, but in the month under report they have fallen by 29 per cent. from 18,580 to 13,112. Rapid progress has been made with the railway earthwork, and between one-fourth and one-third of the line has been finished. The wages have again been slightly raised, for which the reason is not given.

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief are said to have slightly fallen ; but as it is not clear on what system these figures are compiled, a comparison with

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* Not printed.

previous figures is not of much value. The Dewan's report gives the following numbers under this head :—

No.	Agency.	Numbers relieved in April.	Numbers relieved in May.
1	Village relief	3,410	4,091
2	Poor-house, Kotah	745	682
3	„ Ghatoli	450	?
4	„ Mandana		
5	„ Baran	825	1,015
6	„ Antah	—	571
7	„ Jagpura...	—	?
8	Sadabarts of Jagirdars	2,000 ?	580
9	Relief Camp, Ganeshpal	885	1,404
10	Orphanage and cripples' home	313	?
11	Balitah Camp—destitute workers	?	894
12	„ dependants and sick	?	424
	Total	8,628	9,661

Against this, the famine statement shows a total of 9,153. A reference has been made to the Political Agent on the subject. No returns appear to have been sent in from the new poor-house at Jagpura or from the Ghatoli and Mandana institutions, while the orphanage is not mentioned. Depôts have been established along the main lines of traffic for the relief of returning emigrants and their cattle. Certain numbers are fed daily, but no details have yet been received.

4. Cholera visited the State during the month, but was not of the virulent type experienced in Tonk, Shahpura, and Mewar. The total mortality it caused is returned at 450 persons, but this is probably below the mark. The condition of the people is said to be unsatisfactory. Food imports have risen enormously, the total for the month being 67,880 maunds. Nothing is said as to the cattle, but Rs. 1,30,000 have been sanctioned for the purchase of seed and bullocks. This sum has been shown, and probably erroneously, as part of the famine expenditure during the past month. Prices have risen. Enclosed with this is an extract from a demi-official letter recently received from the Political Agent in reply to a request for information from the Honorary Secretary to the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Calcutta.

5. The following table shows the fluctuations in the numbers on relief in Jhalawar during the last seven months :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
November	400	250	650	·40
December	700	800	1,500	1·00
January	1,155	769	1,924	1·28
February	2,351	2,127	4,478	2·98
March...	2,583	1,692	4,275	2·85
April	3,712	1,443	5,155	3·43
May	3,567	2,730	6,297	4·19

The numbers on relief works have fallen by about 150. Owing to the cholera half of the workers on the Mandliakheri tank ran away, most of whom appear to have taken refuge on the petty works under civil agency, as the total employed in this way rose from 83 in April to 1,074 in May. On the Stratton Sagar the numbers fell by nearly 200, but this project must be nearly finished.

6. The increase of 89 per cent. in the number of people on gratuitous relief is due to improved organization. The wanderers and beggars in and about the Chhaoni and Patan City have been brought under control, and the indiscriminate and demoralizing distribution of small grain doles has been checked. The numbers in receipt of village relief appear to have risen from 113 to nearly 500.

7. The cholera epidemic was fortunately not severe and except on one work, appears to have little affected the general arrangements. The general health and condition of the people are good.

In two or three parganas there is a deficiency of grain, and some of the inhabitants, who are Sondhias, exhibit a reluctance to go on the works. The promised details regarding the mortality among the cattle have not been furnished, but complaints continue of an insufficiency of fodder.

Enclosure in No. 175.

Letter from Major G. F. Fagan, Political Agent, Kotah, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1470, *dated Jhalrapatan, the* 9*th*—11*th June* 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, the monthly famine reports furnished by the Kotah and Jhalawar Darbars for the month of May, 1900.

Annexure.

KOTAH.

The total number of persons on relief works and on gratuitous relief during the month was reported to be respectively 24,930 and 9,153 as against 27,130 and 9,228 in April last.

The decrease in the numbers is partly due to the fact that, in view of the approach of the monsoon, the people are returning to their fields and partly to deaths and also to revision of the lists of grain recipients.

The number of labourers on the earthwork of Baran-Kotah Railway was 11,818 as against 8,550 reported in last month. The total earthwork done from 1st to 22nd May, 1900, was 4,179,259 cubic feet, and stone bank 141,949 cubic feet.

The rate of wages has been raised during the month from 6 to 6½ annas per 100 cubic feet.

In addition to the poor-houses and kitchens reported in last month, three more were opened at the Durrah, Antah, and Jagpura during the month, and also depôts for the relief of returning immigrants and their cattle on all the main roads of the State.

The Provincial Committee, Rajputana, of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund, have allotted Rs. 28,000 to this State for the relief of the poor.

His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal has graciously presented a gift of 700 maunds paddy for the benefit of the famine-stricken people of this State. Rs. 85,559 have been spent during the month on various relief works. His Highness has had to sanction a further amount of Rs. 1,30,000 for the purchase of plough bullocks to replace those that have died, and also for providing cultivators with grain and implements of husbandry to enable them to resume cultivating operations on the breaking of the monsoon.

The total expenditure during the month was Rs. 2,30,527, as under :—

——	Rs.
Gratuitous...	14,968
Relief works	85,559
Takavi for purchase of bullocks, seeds, &c....	1,30,000
Total	2,30,527

The condition of the people is unsatisfactory.

No emigration among the people of the country has taken place.

The number of deaths from starvation and cholera was reported to be 3,565 among immigrants as well as local people, against 1,775 reported in the previous month.

Cholera, which was prevalent throughout the State, is, happily, now abating, and it is hoped will soon disappear.

Food stuffs are insufficient; 67,880 maunds of grain have been imported, as against 39,226 maunds last month To encourage importation His Highness has temporarily removed all import duties on grain.

Lieutenant C. A. James, 26th Baluchistan Regiment, has been appointed Famine Officer in the Kotah and Jhalawar States, and reported his arrival here on 23rd May, 1900.

A separate detailed report on the famine operations has already been submitted to your office under cover of this office letter, No. 1434 G., dated 5th instant.

JHALAWAR.

The number of persons in Jhalawar on relief works and on gratuitous relief is reported to be 3,567 and 2,730, as against 3,712 and 1,443, respectively, reported in April last. The sudden increase in the numbers of gratuitous relief is due to the fact that no poor are now allowed to wander in search of private charity, and all who come from outside are at once admitted into the poor-houses.

The number of orphans has risen from 131 to 159.

Cholera made its appearance in the State during the month, and caused a certain amount of mortality; but, happily, the disease is now disappearing.

The cultivators are engaged in ploughing their fields.

The deaths from starvation and cholera are reported to be 571 among local residents and immigrants, as against 692 in last month.

Fodder is scarce, and cattle suffering in consequence.

Food grain is imported from North-Western Provinces.

The State is providing food and fodder to the Marwar immigrants who are now returning to their homes.

The Minister of Nepal has presented 200 maunds of paddy for the relief of the distressed.

The Rajputana Provincial Committee of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund have also allotted Rs. 10,000 to this State to alleviate the suffering of the poor.

Skeleton maps in duplicate for Kotah and Jhalawar are enclosed.

No. 176.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary of the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2892 F., dated Abu, 23rd July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2541 F., dated the 31st of June, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Report of the Kotah and Jhalawar States for the month of June, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter No. 340 C., dated the 13th July, 1900.

2. The following table gives the numbers on relief in the Kotah State during the last eight months:—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November, 1899	1,500	1,000	2,500	·34
December, „	4,370	2,278	6,648	·92
January, 1900	13,462	4,332	17,794	2·47
February, „	20,207	5,077	25,284	3·51
March, „	21,569	9,827	31,396	4·36
April, „	27,130	9,228	36,358	5·05
May, „	24,930	9,153	34,083	4·73
June, „	19,316	10,311	29,627	4·12

In my review of the April Famine Statement, I reported a rise of one-quarter in the number of persons on works, while last month I had to report a decline of 8 per cent. in May due to a curtailment of civil agency works. During June the number on works has still further declined by nearly one-quarter in spite of rapidly increasing distress. The continued curtailment of civil agency projects is chiefly responsible for this regrettable state of affairs, but the numbers employed on the railway have also fallen by 13 per cent. The causes assigned by the Darbar and Political Agent for the decline in May were the return of cultivators to their fields and the cholera epidemic, but I fear the main reason was the desire, which is now openly expressed, to diminish expenditure in consequence of want of funds. The Political Agent in his opening remarks states that the people deprived of employment on the works have been thrown on to gratuitous relief. This explanation is obviously inadequate seeing that, while 5,614 persons have been turned off the works, only 1,158, or just over one-fifth, have been added to the gratuitous lists. Even were the explanation correct, it would indicate a very faulty famine administration. As I have recently been obliged to point out to the Political Agent in connection with the Darbar's application for an additional Government loan, they cannot divest themselves of their responsibility for the lives of their subjects, simply because they have not received all the pecuniary assistance they asked for. No one in Kotah, however, appears to have realised the extreme gravity of the policy that has been adopted, and I felt it necessary to impress on all concerned the mistakes which have been committed.

3. Although the numbers on gratuitous relief have risen by 12 per cent., it is apparent from the remarks under this head appended to the Famine Statement that the aid given fell short of what was required. The total of the numbers gratuitously relived at the different centres again does not agree with the total, 10,311, show in the Famine Statement. This is evident from the following table in which the various details for the three past months are brought together :—

No.	Agency.	Numbers relieved in		
		April.	May.	June.
1	Village relief	3,410	4,091	3,234
2	Poor-house, Kotah	745	682	733
3	„ „ Ghatoli	450	?	?
4	„ „ Mandana			
5	„ „ Baran	825	1,015	1,191
6	„ „ Antah	—	571	1,152
7	„ „ Jagpura	—		410
8	Sadabarts of Jagirdars	2,000 ?	580	?
9	Relief Camp, Ganeshpal	885	1,404	2,921
10	Orphanage and Cripples' Home	313	?	?
11	Belita destitute workers	?	894	1,342
12	„ dependants and sick	?	424	470
	Total	8,628	9,661	11,453

No mention has been made of the poor-houses at Ghatoli and Mandana, of the orphanage in the city itself, or of the numbers relieved by the Sadabarts of

Jagirdars. In the remarks appended to the Dewan's statement, it is said that private charity is fast shrinking and that very few Jagirdars distribute relief to destitute people on their jagirs. From this it would seem that the Jagirdars and private individuals are following the indefensible example of the State authorities in curtailing their operations just at the time when distress was most acute. I am glad to say, however, that the above table shows that the numbers on gratuitous relief have really increased by as much as 1,792 or 18 per cent. In fact, if the jagir figures are eliminated, the increase is 2,372 persons or 26 per cent. The only branch of state gratuitous relief which shows a diminution is village relief. The Darbar, therefore, are not deserving of quite so much blame as the remarks appended to the Dewan's statement and Major Fagon's review would seem to indicate.

4. Cholera still lingers in the State, but the deaths from this disease and from starvation and sunstroke have fallen from 13,565 in May, to 4,266 in June. If these figures are correct, they are hard to reconcile with the Political Agent's description of the condition of the people. The first signs of suffering among the cattle were reported in April, but no mention was made of them in the May Report. The Dewan now states that they are dying for want of fodder, and arrangements are being made to import plough bullocks. Imports of grain have almost doubled during the month under review, but prices have risen appreciably. Fortunately since the report was written all parts of the State have received ample rain.

5. The following table shows the fluctuations in the numbers on relief in the Jhalawar State during the last eight months :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November, 1899	400	250	650	·40
December, „	700	800	1,500	1·00
January, 1900	1,155	769	1,924	1·28
February, „	2,351	2,127	4,478	2·98
March, „	2,583	1,692	4,275	2·85
April, „	3,712	1,443	5,155	3·43
May, „	3,567	2,730	6,297	4·19
June, „	4,177	2 453	6,630	4·42

The numbers on works which showed a slight decrease in May have again risen by 17 per cent. Many persons who were driven away by the cholera panic have returned. Labour on the Mundliakheri tank which was stopped by cholera has been resumed, and on the last day of June the workers had increased to 2,202. The numbers employed on petty civil agency works have fallen by nearly 40 per cent. to 654.

6. The total of persons relieved gratuitously has fallen by 10 per cent. owing to the deportation from the poor-houses of 400 Kotah inhabitants. The poor-house appears to be the only present adopted form of gratuitous relief. There are 4 institutions of this kind in the Chaumehla and 2 at the Chaoni and Patan ; these latter contain 1,654 inmates. There are no fewer than 237 orphans in the city orphanage. Village relief by which 113 people were supported in April and 500 in May appears to have been abandoned.

7. Cholera has almost entirely disappeared in Jhalawar. The general health of the people is reported good, but at the same time the death-rate has doubled, an exact converse of the state of affairs reported from Kotah. The early rain showers of June tempted the cultivators of one tahsil on the extreme south to begin cultivation, but it is feared that these crops have been lost.

Cattle are said to be dying in places, but judging by previous reports, the mortality cannot have been very great. Prices have risen appreciably, and the Darbar have organised a system of cheap grain shops for the benefit of State servants. This is to be gradually extended for the benefit of the other poorer classes. Should this system be generally introduced, it will be interesting to watch its effect on the ordinary grain trade.

Enclosure in No. 176.

Letter from the Political Agent, Kotah, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 340 C., dated Jhalrapatan, the 13th July 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, the Monthly Famine Reports furnished by the Kotah and Jhalawar Darbars for the month of June, 1900.

Annexure.

KOTAH.

The total number of persons on relief works and on gratuitous relief on the last day of the month was reported to be, respectively, 19,316 and 10,311 as against 24,930 and 9,153 in May.

The decrease in the numbers is mainly due to the fact that many of the civil works have been finished, and funds are not available to open new ones. The people thus deprived of employment are thrown on to gratuitous relief and the number under this head has consequently increased.

The number of labourers on the earthworks of the Baran-Kotah Railway was 10,623 as against 11,818 reported last month. The falling off in the numbers is mostly due to people having left to go to their fields in anticipation of the early advent of the monsoon.

The total earthwork done up to 22nd June was 15,237,794 cubic feet and stone bank 222,992 cubic feet : out of the $43\frac{3}{4}$ miles of railway in the Kotah State, $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles have been completed and $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles are in progress. Private charity has decreased. There are very few jagirdars who do anything towards the relief of the distressed in their jagirs. Certain well-to-do men at Baran have however, subscribed Rs. 500 for clothing the poor.

The Provincial Committee, Rajputana, of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund have made a further allotment of Rs. 52,000 to this State. The total amount up to the end of June thus placed at the disposal of the State is Rs. 80,000. Out of this sum the Local Committee have allotted Rs. 60,000 to the purchase of seed, cattle and agricultural implements which will be given as free gifts to the poorest of the cultivators.

The State has sanctioned a further grant of Rs. 55,000 for purchase of grain and plough bullocks.

The total famine expenditure during the month was Rs. 1,19,594 as against Rs. 2,30,527 last month.

The condition of the people is unsatisfactory.

The number of deaths from starvation, cholera, and sunstroke was reported to be 4,266 as against 13,565 reported in the previous month.

The prices of food-grain are very high. 124,374 maunds of grain were imported during the month against 67,880 maunds in May last.

Cattle are dying for want of fodder. Arrangements are being made to buy bullocks from places outside, and officials have already been deputed for this purpose.

JHALAWAR.

The number of persons in Jhalawar on relief works and on gratuitous relief is reported to be 4,177 and 2,453 as against 3,567 and 2,730, respectively, reported in May last.

The increase in the number of those on relief works is mainly due to the returns of certain persons who had previously been driven away through fear of the cholera which broke out amongst the workers. The decrease in the number of persons receiving gratuitous relief is due to the fact that over 400 persons belonging to Kotah were made over to that State from the Chaoni and Patan poor-houses.

The number of orphans has risen from 159 to 237. These are taught to do light works, such for instance, as manufacturing mats, baskets, &c.

The cultivators are busy in ploughing their fields for kharif sowings and waiting only for the rains. Fodder is getting very scarce and the cattle are dying in consequence.

The deaths from starvation and cholera are reported to be 1,226 as against 571 last month.

The Darbar has been importing grain in large quantities from the North-Western Provinces and selling it at reduced rates to the State employés, thus obviating the necessity of granting them famine allowances. The arrangement has been most successful, and has benefited the State and its employés alike. It is now intended to open State grain shops for the benefit of the people. The arrangement will confer a great boon on the latter.

Skeleton maps in duplicate for Kotah and Jhalawar are enclosed.

No. 177.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3114-F., dated Abu, the 16th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 2892-F., dated the 23rd July, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Report of the Kotah and Jhalawar States for the month of July, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 2169, dated the 4th August, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief in the Kotah State during the last nine months are brought together below:—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November, 1899	1,500	1,000	2,500	·34
December „	4,370	2,278	6,648	·92
January, 1900	13,462	4,332	17,794	2·47
February „	20,207	5,077	25,284	3·51
March „	21,569	9,827	31,396	4·36
April „	27,130	9,228	36,358	5·05
May „	24,930	9,153	34,083	4·73
June „	19,316	10,311	29,627	4·12
July „	15,623	10,647.	26,270	3·65

Heavy and general rain fell all over the State between the 7th and 15th July. Work was generally interrupted and numbers of the workers left. The subsequent break in the rains did not last so long as in other parts of the province and the westerly winds were light. Good rain fell again during the closing week. The result is a decline of 19 per cent. in the numbers on work, the total being less than any recorded since January. The Political Agent states that the main reason of the fall is the completion of so many petty Civil Agency Works. This would no doubt account for the fluctuations in June, but although the numbers on Civil Agency works decreased by nearly 40 per cent. in July, while those on the railway remained practically stationary, I think it is safe to assume that the people who left the works in July, left in consequence of beneficial rain.

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief have steadily risen since April. They increased by only 3 per cent. in July, but the month's total is the highest on record. The Political Agent has not answered my inquiries as to the apparent

discrepancies in last month's figures under this head. Adhering to the old figures, the followiug table shows the details accurately :—

Agency.	April.	May.	June	July.
Village relief...	3,410	4,091	3,234	3,726
Kotah poorhouse	745	682	733	929
Antah	—	571	1,152	1,069
Baran	825	1,015	1,191	1,837
Dara and Jagpara	—	—	410	142
Ghatoli and Mandana	450	—	—	—
Jagir Sadabarts	2,000?	580	?	?
Relief Camp Caneshpal Orphanage and Cripples' Home.	1,198	1,404	2,921	2,594
Balita destitute workers	—	894	1,342	350
Balita dependants and sick ...	—	424	470	
Total	8,628	9,661	11,453	10,647

If these figures are correct, the numbers on gratuitous relief have really fallen by 7 per cent. Relief to people at their own homes has been extended as probably it was found necessary to bring on to the village lists a large number of those people who left the camps at Ganeshpal and Balita. In a recent communication received from the Political Agent, the poorhouses are said to be five in number while there are no fewer than 21 relief kitchens in different parts of the State. The latter are not referred to in the accompanying report, and nothing is said as to the numbers in the poorhouses at Atru and Khanpur. The total, therefore, on gratuitous relief is probably larger than that given in the above table.

4. The people who left the works or poorhouses for their villages were given enough food to enable them to reach their homes and the different Nazims have been instructed to relieve necessitous cases by gifts of bullocks, seed, and implements. It is not stated whether preliminary lists were prepared. The Local Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have received altogether Rs. 1,22,000, of which Rs. 80,000, or two-thirds are to be devoted to starting poor cultivators afresh in life. No details are given of the expenditure already made. His Highness presided over a public meeting for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the purchase of medical comforts and blankets for the destitute, with the result that nearly Rs. 12,000 were raised. Distress is said to be still acute, but the rain has been abundant and grass must be springing up everywhere, and the prospects are good.

5. The numbers on relief in the Jhalawar State are given below :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Perceptage.
November, 1899	400	250	650	·40
December „	700	800	1,500	1·00
January, 1900	1,155	769	1,924	1·28
February	2.351	2,127	4,478	2·98

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage
March, 1900	2,583	1,692	4,275	2·85
April „	3,712	1,443	5,155	3·43
May „	3,567	2,730	6,297	4·19
June „	4,177	2,453	6,630	4·42
July „	1,678	2,784	4,462	2·97

The workers have decreased by nearly two thirds, the total being lower than any recorded since January. The rains have been favourable, and every work except the Stratton Sagar shows a large decrease. The numbers on petty works under Civil Agency have fallen from 654 to 205. The persons relieved gratuitously have increased by 13 per cent., and now largely exceed those on the works. The number of orphans supported by the State has also risen.

6. The condition of the people appears to have improved. Cholera still lingers, but the cases are few. Agricultural operations are going on vigorously, and grazing must now be available for the cattle. The report states that those who require seed and bullocks are being so assisted by the Darbar, but no details are furnished. The system of cheap grain shops, which was alluded to in last month's report, is said to have proved a great success. A public meeting for the collection of subscriptions to the charitable fund was held at Jhalrapatan, also a sum of Rs. 3,386 was realised. The crop prospects are excellent everywhere.

Enclosure in No. 177.

From the Political Agent, Kotah, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Abu, No. 2169, dated Kotah, the 4th August, 1900.

I have the honour to submit for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, the monthly famine reports furnished by the Kotah and Jhalawar Darbars for the month of July, 1900.

Annexure.

KOTAH.

The total number of persons on relief work and on gratuitous relief on the last day of the month was reported to be, respectively, 15,623 and 10,647, as against 19,316 and 10,311 in June.

The decrease in the numbers, as already explained in last month, is mainly due to the fact that the civil works that were in progress have been nearly completed.

The number of labourers on the earthwork of the Baran-Kotah Railway was 10,380, as against 10,623 reported last month.

On account of the general good rain which has fallen, some of the destitutes of the cultivating classes who were gratuitously fed, and others who were working on relief works, have returned to their villages to resume cultivation. The Nazims of the districts have been instructed by the Darbar to supply destitute cultivators with free gifts of bullocks, seed, and implements of agriculture.

The Provincial Committee, Rajputana, of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund have made a further allotment of Rs. 22,000 during the month. The total amount up to the end of July thus placed at the disposal of the State is Rs. 1,02,000. Out of this sum the Local Committee have allotted a further sum of Rs. 20,000; which sum, together with the allotment of Rs. 60,000 made last month for the purchase of bullocks, seed, and implements for free distribution, amounts to Rs. 80,000. A meeting was held in the public gardens for the purpose of appealing for subscriptions to the fund for supplying extra medicines, medical comforts. and blankets for the famine stricken. His Highness and the leading Sirdars, Sahukars, and Officials subscribed a sum of over Rs. 11,795-8. More subscriptions are expected.

The number of deaths from starvation and its after effects was reported to be 3,955, as against 4,266 reported in the previous month.

The prices of food grain are slightly lower than in last month. The Darbar have granted a famine allowance, with effect from 1st July, 1900, to all State servants drawing salaries Rs. 10 and under, at the rate of Re. 1 per mensem. The sowars will get Rs. 2 per month extra; and those drawing less than Rs. 5 to get as much as to raise their pay to Rs. 5 per mensem.

Arrangements are being made by the Darbar to import grain from outside with a view to provide against the prices being unduly raised by the grain dealers.

The sowings of kharif crops are being pushed on.

JHALAWAR.

The number of persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief on the last day of July is reported to be 1,678 and 2,784 respectively, as against 4,177 and 2,453 reported in June last. The decrease of the number on the relief works is due to the return of cultivators to their fields in consequence of the setting in of the rains.

The number of orphans has risen from 237 to 292. Clothes are being made for these as well as for the inmates of the poorhouses.

The people are now busy in sowing kharif crop the State is providing seed and bullocks to those requiring them.

It is expected that the fodder difficulty, which is now at its worst, will cease to be felt in a few days, by which time grass will be available.

The opening of grain shops by the State has caused the prices of food grain to fall.

A similar meeting, as was held at Kotah, was held here for the purpose of raising funds to provide medical comforts, &c., for the poor, and a sum of Rs. 3,386 was subscribed. The number of deaths from starvation and other causes is reported to be 1,097, as against 1,226 last month.

Skeleton maps in duplicate for Kotah and Jhalawar are enclosed.

No. 178.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3318 *F., dated Abu, the* 19*th September*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3114 F., dated 16th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, letter No. 2427, dated 1st September, 1900, from the Political Agent, Kotah, forwarding reports on the relief operations in Kotah and Jhalawar during the month of August. The usual Famine Statements have not been furnished.

2. The numbers on relief of all kinds in the Kotah State during the last ten months are brought together below :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November, 1899	1,500	1,000	2,500	·34
December „	4,370	2,278	6,648	·92
January, 1900	13,462	4,332	17,794	2·47
February „	20,207	5,077	25,284	3·51
March „	21,569	9,827	31,396	4·36
April „	27,130	9,228	36,358	5·05
May „	24,930	9,153	34,083	4·73
June „	19,316	10,311	29,627	4·12
July „	15,623	10,647	26,270	3·65
August „	10,453	21,142	31,595	3·39

The State received heavy and general rain all through August, and one-third of the workers left for their fields. The total at the end of the month was less than any recorded since December last. Approximately two-thirds of workers were employed on the railway.

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief have nearly doubled. The total has risen in the Ganeshpal Camp, but the attendance has fallen off at all the other relief centres. Owing, however, to the somewhat tardy expansion of village relief, the figures under this head have increased by 246 per cent. to 15,321. The Political Agent reports that uncooked doles are now distributed in every village of the State. The Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Funds have treated Kotah very generously, and the distribution of grants for the purchase of seed and cattle was evidently carried out during August. But no details have yet been given of the system followed in making the distribution of the aggregate amount disbursed up to date. I had occasion a few weeks ago to impress upon the various Local Committees the necessity for an equitable treatment of jagir villages. From the Political Agent's remarks it would appear that a sum of Rs. 20,000, or one-sixth of the total allotment, has been sanctioned for the jagir cultivators.

4. The numbers on relief in the Jhalawar State are given below :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November, 1899	400	250	650	·40
December „	700	800	1,500	1·00
January, 1900	1,155	769	1,924	1·28
February „	2,351	2,127	4,478	2·98
March „	2,583	1,692	4,275	2·85
April „	3,712	1,443	5,155	3·43
May „	3,567	2,730	6,297	4·19
June „	4,177	2,453	6,630	4·42
July „	1,678	2,784	4,462	2·97
August „	1,759	1,861	3,620	2·41

There has been little fluctuation in the numbers on works. The Political Agent states that the decrease in numbers is due to the people having left for their fields. As a matter, however, of fact, there has been a slight increase of nearly 3 per cent. as will be seen from the following table :—

Works.	July.	August.
Mandliakheri tank	988	970
Kishenpura „	270	520
Hatunia „	80	135
Stratton Sagar „	135	—
Gaonri „	—	90
Miscellaneous	205	10
Total	1,678	1,725

The civil agency works are practically closed.

5. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have fallen off by one-third, chiefly owing to a systematic poor-house delivery. All able-bodied aliens have been sent to their homes. There are only 360 persons relieved by grain doles at their own homes. The cheap grain shops have been maintained by the State all through the month, and the fall in market prices is attributed to their operations.

6. This Agency has received more continuous and abundant rain than any other part of Rajputana, and a break is now urgently required. The maize has suffered not a little from flooding and damp, and ploughing for the rabi harvest is not yet possible. Fodder is ample everywhere. The condition of the people is said to be good in Jhalawar, and there is reason to believe that it has improved in Kotah. Cases of cholera are few and far between, but dysentery and diarrhœa are prevalent. The statement in the Kotah report that 2,307 deaths have been returned as due to starvation or its after effect is, I think, unreliable. These figures I take to represent the total number of deaths from all causes recorded in the State during August.

The Political Agent has been addressed on the point.

Enclosure in No. 178.

Letter from Major C. G. F. Fagan, Political Agent, Kotah, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2427, dated Jhalrapatan, the 1st September, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, the Monthly Famine Reports furnished by the Kotah and Jhalawar Darbars for the month of August, 1900.

Annexure.

KOTAH.

Private charity.—The number of grain dole recipients in the Gowsal has further risen to 1,377, showing an increase of 50 per cent. over the number of the last month, due to intensity of distress among the poor residents of the city.

Village and poor-house relief.—Village relief has recently been much expanded and opened in ~~every~~ village, with a view to relieving all the destitutes at their homes by distribution of dry grain rations. The number in recipt of gratuitous relief at various poor-houses and kitchens is given below :—

Name of Poor-houses or Kitchens.	No. in receipt of gratuitous relief in July.	No. in receipt of gratuitous relief in August.	Remarks.
Antah poor-house	1,069	126	The number in the Jugpura poor-house being small, it has been incorporated with the village relief at that place.
Baran do.	1,837	297	
Ganeshpal, with one branch at Chaturpura and orphanage.	2,594	3,536	
Railway camp at Balita, Durrah, and Jugpura ...	350	495	
Kitchens	142	15,321	
Village relief	3,726		
Total	9,718	19,765	

Some of the inmates of the two poor-houses at Antah and Baran have returned to their homes in consequence of the rains, others have been sent to their homes to be cared for under the village relief system.

Owing to the rapid increase in the numbers at the Ganeshpal Camp, a temporary branch has been opened at Chaturpura.

The Provincial Committee, Rajputana, has, in addition to Rs. 1,02,000 previously granted, allotted Rs. 20,000 during the month for the benefit of the destitutes of the State. Sanction has been accorded by the Local Committee to this sum being utilised in providing seed, bullocks and agricultural implements to the cultivators of the jagir and mafi villages.

General character of relief works.—The State Engineer reports that there were 2,849 persons working on relief works, and that the fall in their number is due to rain and to the departure of many to their homes for the purpose of ploughing and sowing their crops.

The railway has 7,604 men at work, and the progress up to the 15th has been as follows :—

——	Work completed during August.	Previously reported.	Total to 15th of August.
Earthwork	28,45,927	1,89,44,456	2,17,90,383
Stone bank	80,746	3,26,076	4,06,822
Ballast collection	39,460	73,028	1,12,488

Out of the 43¾ miles of railway in the Kota States, 26¾ miles have been completed and 8 miles are in progress.

2,307 deaths have been reported from starvation and its after effects.

Prices have somewhat improved. General distress is diminishing, but very slowly. Cultivators are being given seed grain, plough bullocks and implements of husbandry, and are busy with their work. The labourers in villages find some work in the fields and the destitutes are relieved gratuitously.

JHALAWAR.

Private relief.—The subscription referred to in the statement for the month of July 1900, has reached to Rs. 3,376. This amount will be applied to the providing of necessary medicines, medical comforts and clothing for the poor.

Poor-houses.—The two principal poor-houses at the Chaoni and the city of Patan contain, respectively, 357 and 192 inmates. The decrease in the numbers is due to the fact that, with the exception of such as are weak, or sick, all able-bodied persons belonging to foreign States have been sent to their homes, having first been provided with necessary clothing and expenses for the journey ; and those belonging to this State have also been sent to their villages, where there is more than enough work for them in the shape of weeding and ploughing, &c. The principal Patels have, moreover, been supplied with money to enable them to help with food and clothing such of the villagers as may stand in need of assistance owing to illness or some other cause. The same procedure has been adopted with respect to the poor-houses at Pachpahar, Awar Dag and Gangdhar.

Relief works.—The following relief works have remained open during the month, and the numbers of the workers on the last day of the month (*i.e.*, 24th August 1900) are given against the name of each :—

Works.	Number.
1. Mundliakheri tank	970
2. Kishenpura tank	520
3. Hatunia tank	135
4. Gaonri tank	90
5. Miscellaneous	10

The decrease in the numbers is chiefly due to the fact that the people of the agricultural classes have left the works for their fields.

Condition of the people.—Cholera has almost disappeared, but there have been some cases of diarrhœa and dysentery. The general health of the people has been good.

The rainfall during the month has been very good and the crops are in excellent condition.

Prices current.—The State grain shops have remained opened during the month. These shops have been very successful, and have given great satisfaction to all classes of the people, and have, moreover, materially influenced the market rates of the food grain, which have fallen considerably during the month.

Fodder.—Grass is plentiful everywhere, and all difficulties regarding fodder have disappeared.

No. 179.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2187 *F., dated Abu, the* 16*th May*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1775 F., dated the 12th April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement† of the Jaisalmer State for the month of April, 1900, together with letter No. 339 G., dated 7th May, 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States.

2. The monthly fluctuations in the numbers on relief since October, 1899, are shown in the marginal table. The total on works has risen by 8 per cent. during the month under review, but the dependents have increased in a greater ratio than the workers. The new workers are still in a minority, so many of the male population having left for Sind with their cattle. The organization and scale of wages have undergone no change since the beginning of the famine. Jowar is the staple food-grain and has been chiefly imported from Sind. The great majority of the people are employed on works in and around the capital, but eight petty works are in progress in the outlying parganas.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October ...	921	6	927	·8
November ...	1,162	14	1,176	1·01
December ...	1,689	47	1,736	1·50
1900.				
January ...	1,407	17	1,424	1·23
February ...	1,584	17	1,601	1·37
March ...	1,574	19	1,593	1·37
April... ...	1,709	26	1,735	1·5

3. Admissions to the poor-house are increasing, and preparations are being made to open an orphanage in case of necessity. But according to the Dewan a famine orphan is as yet a rarity in Jaisalmer.

4. The health in the State is good, and cholera is conspicuous by its absence. There was no rabi harvest of any kind, as irrigation from wells is impossible and the winter rains entirely failed. There were a few showers of rain in the beginning of April, which put some water into the tanks of one pargana near Jaisalmer and of another on the eastern border. The wells are holding out, but a continuous course of brackish water without the usual admixture of curds must injuriously affect the condition of the people. The food-stocks are sufficient and imports at present are said to be satisfactory.

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* See page 441 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.

† Not printed.

5. Emigration continues on a small scale. The chief object now is to save the cattle. This month 530 persons and 660 cattle have left for Bahawalpur. The Resident furnishes approximate figures of the deaths among cattle, and the extent of emigration since the famine began. As the local Hakims were directed to stop emigration as far back as December, it is possible that large numbers of cattle shown as dead or still within the limits of the State are really grazing at the present moment on the banks of the canals in Sind and Bahawalpur having been secretly removed by their owners. 107,281 head of cattle were reported as having left for the neighbouring tracts during the famine of 1896–97, but up till the end of April last barely three-fourths of that total are returned as having emigrated. As the cattle which will come back on the arrival of the rains will be accompanied by droves of Sind animals from the mosquito-haunted districts, it will be a matter of difficulty to compute the losses in livestock arising from the famine.

Enclosure in No. 179.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner in Rajputana, No. 339 G., dated Abu, the 7th May, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the accompanying Famine Report of the Jaisalmer State for the month of April, 1900, together with a skeleton map showing that there has been no change in the affected area.

—	Rs.
* Males	411
Females	684
Children	431
	1,526
Non-working	183
	1,709

2. The number of labourers on relief works has increased from 1,422 to 1,526,* and the number of non-working children was 183 as against 152 in the preceding month. The Dewan reports that the distress is growing deeper as the season advances.

3. Two works were completed and five new works were opened, making a total of 18 works in progress, on which 1,526 labourers were employed.

4. The total famine expenditure during the month was Rs. 5,423.

5. The poor-house at Jaisalmer maintained 28 persons during the month, of whom 1 left and 1 died. The expenditure during the month amounted to Rs. 68, making a total expenditure of Rs. 381 since the poor-house was opened.

Some 80 persons are fed by the Seths of Jaisalmer.

6. The health of the labourers on the relief works is said to have been generally good. The Dewan, however, reports that there were 4 cases of measles at the Amarsagar relief work, and were duly attended to by the Hospital Assistant. Otherwise the State was free from cholera and other epidemic diseases.

7. One death occurred in the poor-house at the capital, and 3 persons died on the relief works.

8. No deaths from starvation are reported from the Jaisalmer State.

9. Thirty-seven famine labourers received medical treatment during the month, of whom 30 recovered, 4 died and 3 remained under treament at the end of the month.

10. Emigration continues to take place. 530 persons with 660 cattle left Jaisalmer during the month for the Bahawalpur State.

11. The following statement, received from the Dewan, shows approximately the number of cattle there were in Jaisalmer at the beginning of the

famine, the number whieh have died, the number emigrated, and the number still remaining in the State :—

Total Number at the beginning of the Famine.			Died or Emigrated.						Number still remaining in the State.		
			Died.			Emigrated.					
Cows, bulls, buffalos, and camels.	Sheep and goats.	Total.	Cows, bulls, buffalos, and camels.	Sheep and goats.	Total.	Cows, bulls, buffalos, and camels.	Sheep and goats.	Total.	Cows, bulls, buffalos, and camels.	Sheep and goats.	Total.
220,200	237,700	456,900	137,600	103,000	240,000	29,100	46,400	75,500	53,500	87,300	140,800
			62%	43%		13%	20%		25%	37%	

These figures are merely approximate.

12. The prices of food-grains have somewhat fallen as shown below :—

—	Rates in March.	Rates in April.
Wheat	7¼ seers	8¼ seers
Bajra	7¼ „	7½ „
Jowar	8 „	8½ „

13. Some 22 cents of rainfall was measured at Jaisalmer during the month. Some rain has also fallen in the Parganas of Khaba, Bap and Fatehgarh ; at the latter place the rain brought some days' water-supply in the tanks and nadis.

14. There has been no change in the rates of wages.

15. Food-stocks and imports are reported to be sufficient.

16. Drinking water in sufficient quantities is obtainable in the large villages and towns.

Annexure.

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for April, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—Eighty poor are fed by the Sahukars in the town.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Nil.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Excavation of tanks, constructing and improving roads, collecting rubble stone and kankhar, and drawing water from wells and general repairs.

4. *Physical condition of people.*—The health of the persons under relief was generally satisfactory. The district was free from cholera or any other epidemic diseases. Four cases of measles were seen at Amarsagar relief work, which were duly attended to by the Hospital Assistant.

5. *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—None.

6. *Food-stocks.*—Generally satisfactory.

7. *Importation of grain.*—Generally satisfactory.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Intensity of distress growing day by day. There were little showers measuring 22 cents. at the capital, and the Parganas of Khaba and Bap had also 3 and 4 cents. From the Fatehgarh Pargana, however, a fair fall of rain was reported on the 16th and 17th, which gave some days' supply of water to the tanks and nadis in the pargana.

As noted in previous reports, no crops of any kind are standing in the State. Rabi crops are sown only in the depressions which were all dry this year. They are not sown here on wells which are too deep, and it is much expensive to obtain water from them for sowing purposes.

9. *Changes of rates in wages.*—No changes.

The wages are paid in cash and are given below, together with the equivalents of grain in British chittacks :—

Class.	Pice.	Grain Equivalents.
Mates	8	14·6
Men diggers	7	12·8
„ carriers	6	10·10
Women with infants	7	12·8
„ alone...	6	10·10
„ old and infirm	5	9·1
Children above 12	5	9·1
„ between 7 and 12 ...	4	7·3
„ below 7	3	5·5

56 pice = a Jaisalmer rupee.

Prices reckoned on jowar.—The prices per kaldar rupee in Government seers stand as below:—

—	Seers.
Wheat	8¼
Bajra	7½
Jowar	8½

When the rates were fixed the prices were calculated at 8 seers of jowar per rupee but, as the grain now sells ½ seer more, the coolies get a little more than that originally reckoned for the pice paid to them.

10. *Emigration or Immigration and cattle.*—The number of persons emigrated during the month was 530, making the total emigration 40,370.

None of the emigrants was deported back by the State, nor had any one voluntarily returned during the month.

The cattle are in great straits. They have considerably deteriorated in physique. 137½ thousand head of cows, oxen, and buffalos and camels are estimated to have died from starvation up to the end of March last. The number estimated to be existing now is 53½ thousand, of which 660 cattle were removed this month to foreign countries. The number of cattle removed up to date is 29,381 head.

No. 180.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2,143 *F., dated Abu, the 9th June,* 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 2,187 F., dated the 16th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India,

the Famine Statement* of the Jaisalmer State for the month of May, 1900, together with letter, No. 424 G., dated 4th June, 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States.

2. There has been very little change during the month, either in the numbers in receipt of the different kinds of relief or in the relative proportions of men, women, and children. The programme of relief works has been expanded, and now includes the clearing of culturable lands. The "karins" are being taken in hand, and if Jaisalmer receives even a moderate rainfall, the harvest should be larger than any that has been reaped for some years. The scale of wages remains the same for all those workers who are not paid at contract rates. The number of works in the outlying parganas has increased from eight to eleven.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October	921	6	927	·8
November	1,162	14	1,176	1·01
December	1,689	47	1,736	1·50
1900.				
January	1,407	17	1,424	1·23
February	1,584	17	1,601	1·37
March	1,574	19	1,593	1·37
April	1,709	26	1,735	1·50
May	1,733	28	1,761	1·51

3. The health of the State continues good, and no deaths from starvation have been reported. The cholera epidemic, which caused such heavy mortality during May in many of the other Rajputana States, failed to penetrate into the desert.

4. The distinctive feature of the month was an abnormally heavy fall of rain in the south-west and central portions of Jaisalmer. This has improved the water-supply, and enabled agricultural operations to be commenced in isolated tracts. Food-stocks are sufficient, and the import trade has not yet ceased. Rain fell all along the Bahner Road, thus facilitating transport. Prices, however, show a slight tendency to rise, and will probably go higher in June. Emigration has practically ceased, as travelling now involves no little hardship. In the famine of 1896-97, 25,143 people were said to have emigrated. This year the returns show 40,470 emigrants, or 35 per cent. of the population, but the actual total is probably larger.

Enclosure in No. 180.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 424 G., dated Abu, the 4th June, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the accompanying Famine Report of the Jaisalmer State for the month of May, 1900, together with a skeleton map, showing the affected area.

2. The distress continues, and the famine-affected area remains unchanged except in the marginally-noted parganas, which were favoured with a rainfall during the month, and where the difficulties of securing drinking-water have been mitigated.

Jaisalmer, Khabba, Devikot, Ramgarh, Bap, Khuiala, Fategarh, Mayajlar, and Nokh.

The Dewan reports that the agricultural operations have been commenced in these parganas. Ploughs are worked by men who do not possess camels.

The number of labourers on relief works has decreased from 1,526 to 1,512, while the number of non-working children has increased from 183 to 221 on the last day of the month under report.

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* Not printed.

Three works were completed, and four new works opened during the month, making a total of 19 works in progress, on which 1,512 labourers were employed.

The total famine expenditure during the month was Rs. 5,385.

The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief from the State on the 25th May, 1900, was 28 against 26 in the preceding month. The cost of this relief is stated by the Dewan to be Rs. 84. The total expenditure under this head since the establishment of the poor-house at Jaisalmer amounted to Rs. 465.

The Seths of Jaisalmer continue to feed 80 destitute persons.

The health of the labourers on the relief works is said to have been generally good, and the State remained quite free from cholera and other epidemic diseases.

Five persons died on the relief works and one in the poor-house.

No deaths from starvation are reported from the Jaisalmer State.

Forty famine labourers received medical treatment during the month, of whom 21 were cured, 6 died, and 13 remained under treatment at the end of the month.

Emigration has almost ceased, only 100 persons with 530 cattle left Jaisalmer during the month, and 20 persons returned to Jaisalmer of their own accord from the adjoining Sind districts.

The prices of food-grains have risen as shown below:—

—	Rates in April.	Rates in May.
Wheat	8¼ seers	7¼ seers
Bajra	7½ „	7½ „
Jowar	8½ „	8 „

The rates of wages remain unchanged.

The food-stocks are reported to be sufficient.

The table below shows the movement of food-grains and hides during April, 1900:—

—	Food-grains.	Hides worth.
	Mds.	Rs.
Imported	14,202	11
Exported	Nil.	5,081

The State has received during the month the second instalment of Government famine loan of Rs. 25,000.

Annexure.

Remarks by the Dewan, Jaisalmer, to accompany Famine Statement for May, 1900.

(1.) *Private relief.*—Eighty persons are fed by the Sahukars in the town.

(2.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Nil.

(3.) *General character of relief works.*—Excavation of tanks, constructing and improving roads, clearing of jungle bushes to make the culturable soil fit for the plough, drawing water from wells and other miscellaneous labour.

(4) *Physical condition of people.*—Generally satisfactory. District free from cholera or other epidemic diseases.

(5) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—None.

(6) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(7) *Importation of grain.*—Generally satisfactory.

(8) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—No improvement in the distressed area, except in the following parganas :—

(1) Devikot.	(4) Khabha.
(2) Ramgarh.	(5) Jaisalmer.
(3) Bap.	(6) Khuiala.

The Devikot and Ramgarh Parganas were favoured with fair showers on the 14th and 19th, measuring 60 cents. and 1-inch, respectively. In Bap and Khabha, although the rains were measured 6 and 9 cents. on the 13th and 19th, several of the villages under them had a fair rainfall. Similarly the Jaisalmer itself did not measure even a cent., but several of the villages under it got nice showers, so much so that the Jaisalmer tank itself received a good supply of water. The Khuiala Pargana also was favoured with little showers, and the agricultural operations have been commenced in all these parganas. The supply of water in the tanks and nadis has mitigated the sufferings of the people, and the water is within easy reach of the villagers. Most of the wells have been closed.

The kharif sowing is carried on by camels. Those who do not possess even camels employ themselves as animals in tilling their lands.

No rabi crops are standing anywhere, but the large karin " Masurdi " in Khabha has received water which will enable the rabi crops being sown on the sowing time.

9. *Changes of rates in wages.*—No changes have taken place. The labourers are paid in cash. The scale of wages, as usual, is given under, together with the equivalents of grain in British chittacks :—

Class.	Pice.	Chittacks.
Mates	8	14·6
Men diggers	7	12·8
„ carriers	6	10·10
Women with infants	7	12·8
„ alone	6	10·10
„ old and infirm	5	9·1
Children above 12...	5	9·1
„ between 7 and 12	4	7·3
„ below 7	3	5·5

56 pice=a Jaisalmer rupee. Prices are reckoned on jowar.

Prices are as under.

—	Seers.
Wheat	7¼
Bajra	7½
Jowar	8

10. *Emigration or immigration and cattle.*—The emigration has almost ceased, only 100 men were reported to have emigrated during the month. The total number of emigrants up to date is 40,470.

None of the emigrants was deported back by the State, but 20 persons have voluntarily returned this month from Thar and Parker.

Cattle are very deficient and poor, but their condition will improve when grass has grown up in the tracts favoured with rains. Bullocks for agricultural purposes are scarce.

The removal of cattle to outlying districts for pasture was not in much progress during the month ; only 530 head were taken away, making the total of 29,911.

No. 181.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2819 F., dated Abu, the 13th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2143 F., dated the 9th June, 1900, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Jaisalmer State for the month of June, 1900, together with letter No. 528 G., dated the 5th July 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States.

2. The marginal table shows that the numbers on relief have fallen lower than during any other month since relief operations were first started in October. I regret to say that a marriage party from Marwar introduced cholera into the capital, and the epidemic quickly spread through the city and famine works. This caused a complete panic, as the disease has hitherto been unknown in Jaisalmer. The death figures are not yet available, but it is feared they will be high. Seven of the works close to the city were entirely abandoned. Fortunately the outlying works were very little affected.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October	921	6	927	·8
November	1,162	14	1,176	1·01
December	1,689	47	1,736	1·50
1900.				
January	1,407	17	1,424	1·23
February	1,584	17	1,601	1·37
March	1,574	19	1,593	1·37
April	1,709	26	1,735	1·50
May	1,733	28	1,761	1·51
June	611	16	627	·54

3. Good rain fell in June in five parganas, and the people promptly took advantage of it to sow some kharif crops. These after germinating have begun to wither owing to the absence of further showers. The cattle have benefited somewhat by the rain. 178 persons are reported to have returned to their villages, but I think this is an under-estimate, because information received from Bhawalpur shows that a large number of emigrants, most of whom belong to the Bap and Nokh Parganas, have been tempted homewards by the accounts of rain or the appearance of clouds. There is, however, no general tendency among the emigrants yet to return. They cannot risk bringing droves of cattle belonging to themselves and their Sind friends to the Jaisalmer pasture-lands until the monsoon has fairly broken. Owing to the disorganisation in the public offices by cholera, the accounts received from the State are very meagre.

Enclosure in No. 181.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 528 G., dated Mount Abu, the 5th July, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Report of the Jaisalmer State for the month of Jnne, 1900.

The Officiating Dewan reports that owing to severe outbreak of cholera in Jaisalmer city, almost all the relief workers and muster clerks have left the place, the public offices have become disorganised and the bazaar shops closed.

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* Not printed.

The Maharawal and his family members have left the fort and encamped at a garden called Mul Sagar, 5 miles distant from Jaisalmer.

The number of labourers on relief works on the 25th June was 523, as compared with 1,512 in the preceding month. 88 dependents were also maintained on the works. The expenditure during the month amounted to Rs. 5,134.

The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief from the State was 16 against 28 in May last, but the amount spent in maintaining them is not given.

The parganas of Bap and Nokh have received good rain measuring 1 inch and 40 cents in each during the month. Small showers have also fallen in the parganas of Fatehgarh, Mayajlar and Nachna, but more rain is urgently wanted to keep up the kharif crops lately sown.

The condition of cattle is said to have somewhat improved in the districts where rain has fallen.

People have been prohibited from drinking water from tanks, and wells have been re-opened for them.

The rates of wages remain unchanged.

The food stocks are reported to be satisfactory, but the information regarding the movement of food grains and hides is not available.

178 persons are said to have voluntarily returned to their homes.

The Seths of Jaisalmer continue to feed some 80 destitute persons.

No deaths from starvation were reported during the month.

The Hospital Assistant being engaged in cholera cases has not been able to furnish the usual statement of mortality on the relief works. But from a statement received from Captain Grant, Officiating Residency Surgeon, Western Rajputana States, it appears that between the 21st and 25th June, no less than 389 deaths have occurred in Jaisalmer city from cholera, and I have asked him whether he can detach another Hospital Assistant to Jaisalmer to assist the one in charge of the dispensary there.

As there has been no change in the affected area, the usual map has not been sent.

Annexure.

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for June, 1900.

(1) *Private relief.*—Some 80 persons are fed by the Sahukars in the town.

(2) *Village and poorhouse relief.*—Nil.

(3) *General character of relief works.*—Excavation of tanks, constructing and improving roads, clearing of jungle bushes to make the culturable soil fit for the plough, drawing water from wells, and other miscellaneous labour.

(4) *Physical condition of people.*—Very bad. Cholera having broken out in the town, hundreds fell victims to the dire disease.

(5) *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—None.

(6) *Food stocks.*—Generally satisfactory.

(7) *Importation of grain.*—Generally satisfactory.

(8) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The only prosperous parganas are of Bap and Nokh, which have had a good fall of rain during the month to the measurement of 1 inch and 40 cents. Scanty showers have also fallen in the parganas of Fatehgarh, Mayajlar, Mohangarh and Nachna during the month, but heavy showers are badly wanted to improve the whole affected area. High winds are blowing day and night since a week.

The kharif crops sown lately are withering, exept in Bap and Nokh where they are flourishing.

No rabi crops are standing in the territory.

(9) *Changes of rates in wages.*—No changes have taken place. The scale of wages are the same as reported in previous month.

(10) *Emigration or Immigration.*—The emigration did not take place during the month.

178 persons have, however, voluntarily returned, making the total of 198 as having returned up to date.

Cattle.—Cattle are very deficient and poor. Their condition has somewhat improved in the tracts favoured with rains.

Physique of the people.—Cholera has broken out in the town, and has done and is doing much loss of life. Relief workers have absconded in the district and a great consternation prevails.

No. 182.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3063 F., dated Abu, the 9th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2819 F., dated the 13th July 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Jaisalmer State for the month of July 1900, together with letter No. 674 G., dated the 3rd August 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States.

2. The numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds during the last ten months are brought together in the marginal table. The report for last month was written while the cholera was at its height. During July the epidemic largely abated, and the result is seen in a rise of 48 per cent. in the numbers on works. The total, however, is still lower than any recorded since operations were first started in October 1899. The Hospital Assistant reports that the recorded deaths from cholera amounted to 891. These were returned from the city as well as from the works, and it is feared that they fall far short of the actual total. The new admissions on the works were all people who had fled in the panic. The following table shows the percentages of men, women and children on the works during each of the last three months :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October	921	6	927	·8
November	1,162	14	1,176	1·01
December	1,689	47	1,736	1·50
1900.				
January	1,407	17	1,424	1·23
February	1,584	17	1,601	1·37
March	1,574	19	1,593	1·37
April	1,709	26	1,735	1·50
May	1,733	28	1,761	1·51
June	611	16	627	·54
July	882	50	932	·71

Class.	May.	June.	July.
Men	27	36	29
Women	46	39	45
Children	26	24	26

* Not printed.

These figures so far as they go show that the panic was greatest among the women and children. They also show that the panic has subsided as the various classes have resumed their normal proportions. As the numbers are still 89°/₀ below the May total, it would seem that the people themselves take a more hopeful view of the future than the Dewan does and are beginning to resume their normal occupations.

3. The total number on gratuitous relief is the largest on record, and the Dewan reports that, in addition to the 50 persons directly maintained by the State, 105 are relieved by charitable funds collected locally. This is the first mention of this kind of relief, but it is possible that it is identical with the gratuitous doles hitherto described as given by the City Sahukars.

4. Meteorological conditions were as unfavourable as they possibly could be during July. The only moderate fall of rain was reported from the Dewa Pargana, but the returns given in the remarks appended to the statement must be incomplete, as the Dewan mentions that the freshly sown crops in Nokh and Bap were still alive. During the month hot westerly winds prevailed all over the State, and effectually withered the young bajra or choked it with sand. The grass seems to have fared somewhat better, as the Resident says that pasture is now available in parts. Food-stocks are said to be sufficient; the decline in June of nearly 13°/₀ in grain imports mentioned by the Resident is ascribed to the transport difficulties. Although the rainfall was very slight, the water-supply is said to have improved. I regret to notice that the condition of the people on relief works is said to have much deteriorated; the Resident is being addressed on the subject; the condition of the inhabitants of the State generally is good. Emigration has ceased and 375 persons are recorded as having returned during the month. From information received from the Bhawalpur State, the total given ought apparently to be larger. 30 head of cattle have come back to the single pargana of Nokh. Cattle are everywhere deficient, but no account has been given of the condition of those in the State. The report contains no allusion to the grants from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, to the consignment of Nepal rice, or to the way in which these are being utilised.

Enclosure in No. 182.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Thornton, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 674 G., dated Abu, the 3rd August, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Report of the Jaisalmer State for the month of July 1900.

The total rainfall up to the end of July 1900 has been as under :—

1	—	May.	June.	July.	Total.
	Jaisalmer Circle, ...	—	—	0·55	0·55
	Devikot „	0·60	—	0·30	0·90
	Khabha „	0·09	—	0·40	0·49
	Ramgarh „	1·0	—	0·30	1·30
	Dewa „	—	—	1·50	1·50
	Bap „	0·06	1·40	0·10	1·56

The agricultural operations had been commenced in almost all the circles in May, but, owing to the want of rains in June and the prevalence of high

winds, the crops sown in parts withered or were buried in sand. The crops in Nokh and Bap Parganas are, however, reported to be in fair condition. The want of rain is keenly felt and improvement in the situation cannot be expected until the monsoon opens freely.

The outbreak of cholera reported last month subsided in the middle of July. The Dewan reports that the number of deaths according to the Hospital Assistant at Jaisalmer, from the 21st June to 15th July 1900, was 891. The town and the neighbouring villages are reported to be now free from the epidemic which is somewhat prevalent in the Nokh Pargana.

Generally the physique of the people is according to the Dewan now satisfactory. Diarrhœa and dysentery are, however, prevailing to some extent.

The Hospital Assistant, being engaged in cholera cases, and subsequently absent on duty with His Highness the Maharawal on his way back to the Mayo College, has been unable to furnish the usual statement of mortality on the relief works. The Dewan remarks that the physique of the relief workers, owing to continued labour, has been much deteriorated.

*Males	229
Females	354
Children	198
Total	781

The number of labourers on relief works on the 25th July 1900 was 781* as compared with 523 in the preceding month.

The number of non-working children also increased from 88 to 101.

The famine expenditure during the month was Rs. 2,834.

The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief from the State was 50 against 60 in the previous month. Of these 9 were orphans (4 boys and 5 girls). The cost of this relief is stated by the Dewan to be Rs. 177.

105 persons were also maintained on village doles from the funds collected locally.

There were 15 relief works in progress during the month.

The aggregate amount spent on relief measures up to the end of July 1900 was Rs. 42,397 (Jaisalmer currency).

Pasture is obtainable in some parts of the State, and the removal of the cattle to the neighbouring districts has now ceased.

Emigration has altogether ceased. 375 persons returned during the month.

The water supply has much improved by the recent rains.

There has been no change in the rates of wages

The food-stocks are sufficient.

The table given below shows the movement of food-grains and hides :—

	Food-grains in Maunds.			Hides worth Rupees.		
	April.	May.	June.	April.	May	June.
Imported	14,202	11,275	9,828	11	—	—
Exported	—	—	—	5,081	1,796	747

The fall in the importation is said to be due to the difficulty in securing transport.

Practically there has been no change in the affected area, and the usual map has, therefore, not been sent.

Annexure.

Remarks by Rawatmal, Officiating Dewan, Jaisalmer, to accompany Famine Statement for July, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—105 persons are under relief out of the funds collected locally.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Nil.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Excavation of tanks, constructing and improving roads, watering trees, removing nuisance from the streets, drawing water from wells and other miscellaneous labour.

4. *Physical condition of people.*—Cholera prevailing in Nokh Pargana. In other parts of the country generally satisfactory. Cholera disappeared from the town of Jaisalmer.

5. *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—Nil.

6. *Food-stocks.*—Generally satisfactory.

7. *Importation of grain.*—Generally satisfactory.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The rains fallen from May to July are given below :—

—	May.	June.	July.	Total.
Jaisalmer Circle	—	—	0·55	0·55
Devikot „	0·60	—	0·30	0·90
Khabha „	0·09	—	0·40	0·49
Ramgarh „	1·00	—	0·30	1·30
Dewa „	—	—	1·50	1·50
Bap „	0·06	1·40	0·10	1·56
	1 75	1·40	3·15	6·30

The above is sufficient to explain the condition of the distressed area.

The agricultural operations were commenced nearly in all the circles in May, but the rains have not fallen in June, and the high winds having blown tremendously, the young crops, which were sown in parts, withered or buried in sand. The crops of the Nokh and Bap Parganas were, however, a little better. In Dewa 1½ inch of rain has fallen in July, but in other circles from 10 to 55 cents only have fallen.

Unless it falls freely in the near future, the condition of the distressed area is not expected to improve. High winds have been blowing all these days, except on the 13th and 14th July when Dewa has had 1½ inch of rain, but at the other registering stations the rain has been poor. The season is advancing and the time for kharif sowings is passing. Every one is anxious for a sufficient and heavy rain which it is sanguinely hoped Providence will send soon and all the anxiety removed.

9. *Changes of rates in wages.*—No changes have occurred in the scale of wages. The labourers, as usual, are paid in cash, and the grain equivalents are as given under :—

Class.	Pice.	Chittacks.
Mates	8	14·6
Men diggers	7	12·8
„ carriers	6	10·10
Women with infants	7	12·8
„ alone	6	10·10
„ old and infirm	5	9·1
Children above 12...	5	9·1
„ between 7 and 12	4	7·3
„ below 7	3	5·5

56 pice = a Jaisalmer rupee. Prices are reckoned on jowar. The prices are as under :—

—	Seers.
Wheat	7¼
Bajra	7½
Jowar	7¾

10. *Emigration or Immigration.*—The emigration has altogether ceased, but, as the rains are holding back, it is likely to take place again. The number of persons who returned voluntarily during the month was 375, making the total of 573.

Cattle are deficient, but in some parts they now obtain grass for pasture. Bullocks for agricultural purposes are scarce. The removal of the cattle to neighbouring districts has ceased. Thirty head of cattle were taken back this month in Nokh Pargana.

No. 183.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2197 F., dated Abu, the 17th May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1809 F., dated the 14th April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements† of the States of Jaipur and Kishangarh for the month of April, 1900, together with the covering letter of the Resident, No. 1620, dated 5th May, 1900

2. The following table shows the fluctuations in the numbers in receipt of both kinds of relief during the last seven months in Jaipur :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
October, 1899	7,000	48,732	55,732	1·9
November „	25,400	Not reported	25,400	—
December „	33,338	7,017	40,355	1·4
January, 1900	35,340	24,928	60,268	2·1
February „	41,961	32,212	74,173	2·6
March „	42,700	37,432	80,132	2·8
April „	54,515	25,663	80,178	2·8

The workers have increased by 27 per cent. The figures show the numbers on works on the last day of the month under report. This marked rise is due to the completion of harvest operations over the greater part of the State. The Darbar, with the foresight which has been so marked a feature of the administration since the beginning of the famine, have extended works into the less severely stricken tahsils. These consist chiefly of a development of the great irrigation system which has been steadily growing for so many years This has involved the addition of one sub-overseer and several clerks and work agents to the Public Works Department establishment. In two Nizamats also new petty works under local officers have been opened. The Rewari-Phalera Railway Extension is now split up into two charges, each under an Engineer Officer. These employ 6,770 people. The numbers on this work have fallen off by 14 per cent. The harvest is later in this part of the State, and probably next month's returns will show a marked increase. The numbers in the relief camps

* *See* page 452 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

under Rao Bahadur Dhanpat Rai have risen by 18 per cent. to 7,829 during April, so that the provision for the weakling gangs is keeping pace with the growing demand.

3. The totals of numbers on gratuitous relief are somewhat difficult to analyse. The statement shows a decrease of 31 per cent. In March the total included 30,751 persons relieved from private Sadabarts leaving a balance of only 6,681. In April the number on private relief has fallen to 14,774, so the balance dependent on the State has risen to 10,889. 25,663 persons are shown as in receipt of gratuitous relief on the last day in April. If those helped by the Sadabarts are excluded, the balance is 10,889, which appears to be made up of the persons relieved by the Relief Committee at their own homes, on the Rewari-Phalera Railway, and in the various poor-houses. The following table gives the best comparison of the different gratuitous relief operations during March and April :—

Agency.	March.	April.
Jaipur Relief Committee	3,131	3,710
Village relief	463	557
Rewari-Phalera Railway	693	611
Poor-house, Jaipur	1,507	1,359
„ Chagsu	161	50
„ Sawai Madhopur ...	400	498
„ Punwar	226	254
„ Newai	100	100
„ Jhunjhun	—	862
Raj Engineering Department ...	—	1,883
Total	6,681	9,884

Three new poor-houses have been opened, and apparently the Lalsot Institution has been closed.

4. Nearly half a lakh of rupees has been advanced as loans to cultivators for the improvement of wells, and purchase of seed. A cattle camp was established during the month close to the city. The health of the people is fair, and no epidemic is reported, but the inhabitants of the most acutely distressed tracts are falling off in condition. A large number of foreigners are returned as either on the works or begging in Shekhawati and Torawati. These are probably from Bikaner, Loharu, and Patiala.

5. The comparative numbers on relief works, and in receipt of gratuitous relief in the Kishangarh State since October 1899, are given below :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
October, 1899	5,412	1,600	7,012	5·3
November „	6,263	2,000	8,263	6·1
December „	6,685	2,233	8,918	6·6
January, 1900	6,240	3,037	9,277	6·9
February „	5,988	2,979	8,967	6·6
March „	6,598	3,615	10,211	7·5
April „	7,703	3,932	11,635	8·6

There has been a marked increase of 16 per cent. in the numbers on works, while those in receipt of gratuitous relief have risen by 8 per cent. Work has begun in the city lake, and on a tank near the city. These works would appear to be administered chiefly on the contract system. During the month a methodical revision of the gratuitous lists has resulted in an addition to the numbers relieved.

6. The returning emigrants are receiving attention, and the arrangements made to prevent suffering and mortality among this class are in accordance with the instructions on the subject which were issued to the Political Officers some time ago. The proposal to meet the expenditure from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund grant has already been anticipated by me.

7. Now that threshing operations are over, a considerable number of cattle are out of work, and these are received freely in the State cattle camps which have been established at different centres where there is plenty of prickly-pear for them to eat. The April crop of pala has not been very good, and bhusa is now available to mix with the "thor." State agents have been busy purchasing cattle in Gwalior and Dholpur ; and, if the animals are allowed to remain where they are until the rains, the enterprise will be very profitable.

8. An interesting account of the arrangements made for the provision of a good water-supply is given in the remarks appended to the statement. The spring level in the wells is sinking every day, but the wells are being deepened wherever possible. The responsibilities of the owners of endowed wells are being enforced, and the Darbar has established water posts on the main lines of traffic. Steps are also being taken to disinfect all the sources of water-supply. Generally speaking, the State arrangements are well in advance of the requirements of the situation, and the Darbar deserves credit.

Enclosure in No. 183.

Letter from G. R. Irwin, Esq., Resident in Jaipur, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1620, *dated Jaipur, the 5th May*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit copies of the Darbar Famine Reports for the month of April.

2. I can see nothing in them on which I can usefully comment. Such remarks as I had to make were submitted with my narrative report for last month.

Annexure.

JAIPUR STATE.

Remarks.

1. *Private relief.*—12,287 persons are employed on works in villages taken in hand by the Zamindars by the help of taccavi advances.

2. *Village relief.*—6,761 persons are receiving relief in grain and cash allowance as noted below :—

3,710 persons especially *pardah nashin* women, in cash through the Relief Committee.

525 persons incapable of doing any work, in grain, through the Nizamat Torawati at the Rewari-Phalera Railway ; and

32 Khandar, 611 children } in cash at the Rewari-Phalera Railway.

1,883 persons, in cash, through the Raj Engineering Department.

3. *Poor-house relief.*—Cooked food is given to 3,123 persons in the poor-houses as noted below :—

1,359	in the poor-house	attached to	the Mayo Hospital
50	„	at	Chagsu.
498	„	„	Sawai Madhopur.
254	„	„	Punwar.
100	„	„	Newai
862	„	„	Jhunjhun

There are poor-houses also at Malpura, Toda Rai Singh, Hindown and Toda Bhim, the reports of which for April have not yet been received.

4 *General character of relief works.*—Earthworks.

5. *Physical condition of people.*—Generally fair, but in the tahsils of Toda Rai Singh, Sambhar, Danta Ramgarh and Phagi the people look emaciated.

6. *Deaths, if any, from starvation.*—One hundred and sixty-nine deaths took place during the month as noted below:—

Fifty-seven Jaipur subjects, 21 foreigners, 91 persons who could not be identified whether Jaipur subjects or foreigners.

7. *Food-stocks.*—Not sufficient, and grain is being imported into Jaipur towns and villages from outside.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—As reported in paragraph 8 of the Remarks for February last.

9. *Changes in rates.*—As mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Remarks for February last.

10. *Immigrants and Emigrants.*—About 4,000 immigrants in Nizamat Shekhawati and about 3,000 immigrants in Nizamat Torawati earn their livelihood by labour or by begging in different parts in the said Nizamats. 1,556 Jaipur subjects have left their houses in Shekhawati for works within or outside of this territory. 137 people, who had formerly left their villages, have come back to their homes in Nizamat Malpura.

11. *Other matters connected with famine.*—As mentioned in the report for February last.

KISHANGARH.

Remarks.

Lists of *parda nashin* and respectable paupers for gratuitous relief have been revised from village to village, and the result is a large increase in the numbers.

Kitchens: Sadabarts remain the same as before: so is the poorhouse.

The immigration of Marwaris and others is on the increase, and arrangements are being made for giving them relief at roadside halting places.

They are found to be generally in great destitution, and consequently those with cattle suffer great privations.

The Local Charitable Relief Fund is being utilised to give relief to these returning emigrants, but it would prove inadequate unless it is replenished by grants from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund by recognising this as one of the valid objects of the fund, in consideration of the peculiar circumstances of Rajputana, where Native States' territorial jurisdiction changes every three or four stages.

Construction of 3 zenana bathing ghats on the banks of the big city lake has been taken in hand as relief works, as well as that of the Inspection Bungalow and of the European Guest-house.

The road from Kishangarh to Udaipur to be extended to Srinagar (Ajmer) is under construction.

The work of excavation of the Suraj Kund, a tank, near the city, that silted up owing to the breaching of the embankment of the big city lake 15 years ago, has also been taken in hand as a relief work.

The cattle preservation measures that were initiated some time ago have been kept up, and the number of cattle at various prickly-pear plantation centres is increasing. The cattle are given bran and bhoosa or pala mixed with the prickly-pear fodder.

The investigation and collection of natural products used as food and fodder are progressing.

The new wells sunk are now being built up pucca, and are being used for watering fodder crops.

The number of children in the orphanage is nearly the same as last month.

The working of the garnet mines is continued on the same principle as before.

Plough cattle are being purchased by Raj agents in the Dholpur and Gwalior districts.

The rabi harvest which was calculated to come up to 4 annas in the rupee has been found to have fallen short of the estimate by about 12 per cent., and the actual out-turn may be put down at $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas.

The scale of rations is as follows:—

——	On relief works.	In poor-houses.
Male	14½ chittacks	8 chittacks.
Female	10 „	8 „
Children	4 to 6 „	3 to 4 chittacks, varying up to the full scale according to age.

The emigration statistics are as follows:—

Emigration.		Immigration.	
Men.	Cattle.	Men.	Cattle.
50	8	255	290

The total expenditure during the month on relief works is approximately as follows:—

——	Rs.
On relief works	34,155
On gratuitous relief...	4,260
Total	38,415

A large number of water posts have been already opened both near habitations and in the jungle on the roadside, and enquiries are still being made all over the State for finding out all suitable sites for water posts.

The drinking-water wells are generally found to be running dry, and large numbers of them are being deepened. There are found to be endowments for repairs of certain drinking-water wells and maintenance of water posts in connection with them scattered all over the State.

In all cases of neglect or mismanagement of such endowments, the collectors of districts have been authorised to put them under the Court of Wards and set matters right.

Reports having been received of cholera epidemic raging in the Ajmer district and in Marwar parganas adjoining Kishangarh territory, precautionary measures have been taken, disinfecting materials and medicines have been supplied in towns and villages all over the State along with printed directions in the local dialect.

Special precautionary measures have been adopted at the poor-house and at relief camps and works.

No. 184.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2474-F., dated Abu, the 14th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2197-F., dated 17th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine statements* of the States of Jaipur and Kishangarh for the month of May, together with the covering letter of the Resident, No. 2075, dated 5th June.

* Not printed.

2. The numbers in receipt of relief in Jaipur since October 1899 are brought together in the following table :—

Month.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
JAIPUR.				
October, 1899	7,000	48,732	55,732	1·9
November „	25,400	Not reported	25,400	—
December „	33,338	7,017	40,355	1·4
January, 1900	35,340	24,928	60,268	2·1
February „	41,961	32,212	74,173	2·6
March „	42,700	57,432	80,132	2·8
April „	54,515	25,663	80,178	2·8
May „	71,472	39,656	1,11,128	3·9

The increase which has gone on from month to month since operations began has been maintained. The workers have risen by nearly one-third although the Rewari-Phulera Railway camps were closed during the month. This total does not include the dependents on the workers who are gratuitously relieved. It represents the numbers returned on the 2nd June, and a comparison with those given in the weekly statement for the same date shows that certain figures have been omitted. According to the latter return the numbers on relief on that date were :—

—	Number.
Workers	71,472
Dependents	11,290
Fed in kitchens	3,879
„ villages	39,656
Total	1,26,297

The total number in receipt of relief is therefore, I believe, 13 per cent. higher than the attached statement represents.

3. During the month there was an extension of works under each separate agency. The earthwork of the Rewari-Phulera railway has been completed, but a certain proportion of the labour has been put on to the collection of ballast. The contract work on roads has been reduced and a further extension of the large irrigation system has been made towards Moazzabad to the south of Phulera. This has necessitated a further increase to the professional establishment. Numerous new Civil Agency works have been opened (chiefly in the eastern tahsils) and it may now be said that all over the State any applicant for work may find it within reasonable distance of his village. The inmates of the Transport Department relief camps have increased by 37 per cent. to nearly 11,000.

4. The numbers on the gratuitous lists have risen by 54 per cent. The total under this head in the above table shows only the persons in receipt of grain doles at their villages. If the poorhouse inmates be included, the total

comes to 43,535. An additional poorhouse has been opened at Moazzabad as an adjunct to the relief camps recently started in that tehsil. The Lalsot poorhouse has not been closed as was surmised in last month's report. There are now altogether ten poorhouses open in the State. During the month, Rs. 10,664 were advanced as loans to cultivators for the improvement of wells and tanks, and the purchase of seed. The large cattle camp which was opened on 29th April now contains 395 animals, which are fed on fodder—probably bhusa mixed with prickly pear. The condition of the people is generally fair except in the south-west of the State where the distress has always been most acute.

5. The following table gives the numbers on relief in the Kishengarh State for the last eight months :—

Month.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
October, 1899	5,412	1,600	7,012	5·3
November „	6,263	2,000	8,263	6·1
December „	6,685	2,233	8,918	6·6
January, 1900	6,240	3,037	9,277	6·9
February „	5,988	2,979	8,967	6·6
March „	6,598	3,615	10,211	7·5
April „	7,703	3,932	11,635	8·6
May „	9,255	3,769	13,024	9·64

The numbers on works have risen by 20 per cent. The number of workers on the contract system has been much reduced, and now two classes of the workers receive famine wages. Aided by the advice of an officer of the Geological Department, marble aud mica quarries have been opened, which provide a fresh field for famine labour. There has been a slight decrease in the numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief.

6. Relief to returning emigrants is continued. The majority appear to be in a very destitute condition but the mention of several "with large herds of cattle" shows that all have not yet come to an end of their resources. In addition to the relieving depôts water posts have been established on the main lines of communication. The purchase of cattle continues, and I have called the attention of the Political Agents at Deoli and Kotah to the report that Haraoti cattle are being brought for sale to Sarwar and Ajmer. The Darbar have taken the right line in indicating to the villagers and their Bohras that the latter are expected to assist the cultivators when they return to their fields. Cholera has not been prevalent in an epidemic form, though it played much havock on the Ajmer works on the south-west border. The timely disinfecting of all sources of water supply appears to have had an excellent effect.

Enclosure in No. 184.

Letter from G. R. Irwin, Esq., C.S., Resident at Jaipur, to the Famine Commissioner, Mount Abu, No. 2075, *dated Jaipur, the 5th June*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit copies of the Darbar famine reports for the month of May, 1900.

2. It will be noticed that in Jaipur the numbers on works, village and other, and in receipt of gratuitous relief, in poorhouses, or at their homes, have

all increased—so also in Kishangarh, where the principal feature is the reduction in the numbers employed at ordinary rates of wages by about 600, while the famine raters have increased by about 800.

There is a discrepancy in the figures given in the monthly and the last weekly report which I have not yet had time to clear up. I am making inquiries regarding this from Kishangarh.

3. The principal points in these reports have already been touched on in the narrative submitted on the 2nd instant, and I see nothing else that I can usefully remark upon.

Annexure.

JAIPUR STATE.

Remarks.

1. *Private relief.*—14,401 persons are employed on works in villages taken in hand by the zamindars by the help of Takavi advances.

2. *Village relief.*—8,025 persons are receiving relief in grain and cash allowance as noted below :—

4,076 persons, especially pardanashin women, in cash, through the Relief Committee.
500 persons, incapable of doing any work, in grain, through Nizamat Torawati.
340 children in cash, at the Rewari-Phalera line.*
1,706 persons, in cash through the Raj Engineering Department.
1,371 persons, in grain through the Superintendent of the Jaipur Transport Corps.
32 in grain at Khandar

3. *Poor-house relief.*—Cooked food is given to 3,879 persons in the poor-houses as noted below :—

1,451 in the poor-house attached to the Mayo Hospital,
743 „ „ at Sawai Madhopur.
150 „ „ at Niwai.
1,007 „ „ at Jhunjhunu.
345 „ „ at Hindown.
183 „ „ at Toda Bhim.

There are poor-houses also at Malpura, Toda Rai Singh, Chatsu and Lalsot, the reports of which for May have not yet been received.

4. *General character of relief works.*—Earthworks.

5. *Physical condition of people.*—Generally fair but in the Tehsils of Malpura, Sambhar, Moazzamabad and Danta Ramgarh the people look emaciated.

6. *Deaths, if any, from starvation.*—183 deaths took place during the month as noted below :—

81 Jaipur subjects.
40 Foreigners.
62 persons who could not be identified whether Jaipur subjects or foreigners.

7. *Food stocks.*—Not sufficient and grain is being imported into Jaipur towns and villages from outside.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—As reported in paragraph 8 of the remarks for February last.

9. *Changes in rates.*—As mentioned in paragraph 9 of the remarks for February last.

Immigrants and emigrants.—About 3,025 immigrants in Nizamat Shekhawati and about 2,500 immigrants in Nizamat Torawati earn their livelihood by labour or by begging in different parts in the said Nizamats.

1,238 Jaipur subjects have left their homes in Shekhawati for works within or outside of this territory.

200 people who had formerly left their villages have come back to their homes in Tehsil Niwai.

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* *Note by Resident.*—This was when the earthworks were open; only ballast breaking is now going on under the State Public Works Department.

11. *Other matters connected with famine.*—As mentioned in the report for February last.

The cattle camp, opened near the Amanishah Nalla since 29th April last as noticed in last month's report, consists of :—

—	Number.
Agricultural bullocks	21
Cows	195
She-buffaloes	11
Calves	161
She-buffaloe calves	7
Total	395

The animals were fed with 1,930 maunds of fodder, and an appropriate quantity of prickly pears mixed with it during the month.

KISHANGARH.

Remarks.

Relief to pardanashin and respectable poor is continued as also that to infirm persons at home.

The kitchens and sadabarts at various places that were in existence before have been maintained.

There is an increase in number of poor-house inmates.

Marwari and other emigrants returning home are now relieved from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief funds and separate accounts are being kept.

During the month there were brought to notice several immigrants who were in pretty well-to-do circumstances and were not in need of help although they had large herds of cattle.

A large number of cases of utter destitution among immigrants were also discovered.

The relief works in progress are the same as before. Quarrying and blasting for marble and mica have been commenced at several places and are being conducted by relief workers.

The work of deepening of drinking water wells is in progress all over.

The measures for preservation of cattle are kept up.

The wet fodder crops are being watered.

Work at the garnet mines is as brisk as before.

Plough cattle continue to be purchased at various places in Gwalior and North-Western Provinces, as also at Sarwar and Ajmer where *Harowti* cattle are brought in large numbers for sale.

Water posts have been established wherever there was found to be room for one all over the State.

Stray cases of cholera have been reported here and there but in no epidemic form except at Sawar where it spread from the neighbouring Ajmer relief camp on the Nasirabad-Kekri Railway.

Sanitary and disinfecting measures have been taken and a dispensary has also been opened at Sarwar.

The epidemic has since subsided. The drinking water wells are disinfected either with permanganate of potash or unslaked lime once a week or oftener, if need be, from village to village in every Pargana.

The emigration statistics are as follows :—

Emigration.		Immigration.		Remarks.
Men.	Cattle.	Men.	Cattle.	
45	123	941	471	

The approximate expenditure on relief works during the month is—

—	Rs.
On relief works	34,635
On gratuitous relief	5,654
Total	40,289

It is to be regretted that the accounts of the relief of destitute emigrants from the various centres have not been received for incorporation in these remarks. A separate account about them will soon follow.

Now that the price of grain has risen, business at the cheap grain shops has commenced increasing.

Petty works in the shape of repairs of old tanks have been opened in villages wherever feasible and necessary in view of giving employment to returning emigrants and cultivators near their homes.

Relief to such of the artisans as have not joined the relief works, continues to be given in their respective trades.

Good rain has fallen in the Bandersendri and northern half of the Rupnagar districts where sowing operations are in full swing.

It is also expected that this may bring up grass for grazing in the jungle.

The supply of prickly pear has been nearly exhausted, except at few centres; the Kair bush has been made use of, for supplementing other supplies of fodder.

Menial servants and sepoys in the army have had an extra famine allowance of 2 annas in the rupee added to their pay. This has been in force since August, 1899, and is over and above the benefit that they derive from the cheap (cost price) grain shops.

Arrangements have been commenced for providing for wherewithals of the cultivators by guaranteed Bohras for the kharif season and rules have been compiled for publication.

Arrangements have also been set on foot for providing for cultivators where Bohras are not forthcoming.

Experiments with various patterns of hand-ploughs have been commenced in view of adoption of the suitable ones for use in the absence of plough cattle.

Steps have been taken for the purchase of kharif seeds for use at sowing time when e rains set in and also for purchase of rabi seeds, *e.g.*, good barley and gram.

The scale of rations is as follows :—

—	On relief works.	In Poor-houses.
Male	14½ chittaks	8 chittaks.
Female	10 „	8 „
Children	4 to 6 „	3 to 6 chittaks varying up to the full scale according to age.

No. 185.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2,851-F., dated Abu, the 17th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2,474-F., dated 14th June, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine reports of the Jaipur and Kishangarh States for the month of June, 1900, together with the covering letter of the Resident No. 2,466, dated 5th July, 1900.

2. The following table shows the numbers on relief in the Jaipur State during the last nine months :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
October, 1899	7,000	48,732	55,732	·19
November „	23,400	Not reported	25,400	—
December „	33,338	7,017	40,355	1·4
January, 1900	35,340	24,928	60,268	2·1
February „	41,961	32,212	74,173	2·6
March „	42,700	57,432	80,132	2·8
April „	54,515	25,663	80,178	2·8
May „	71,472	39,656	111,128	3·9
June „	60,596	49,993	110,589	3·9

These figures show a marked fall of nearly 11,000 persons or 15 per cent. on works of all kinds, but the Resident explains that no returns have been received from the Toramati Nizamat and that in Shekhawati the heavy showers of the opening week in June tempted 11,000 of the 21,000 workers to their homes. Toramati also shared in the rain, and it is probable that many of the people there also left the camp. The numbers supported on the Department of Public Works remained almost stationary.

The labourers in the Transport Corps camp close to the city have risen by nearly 12 per cent. to over 10,000 exclusive of the non-workers.

3. The numbers on the gratuitous lists as shown in the above table have risen by more than one quarter. The following table gives the details of the fluctuations :—

Agency.	May.	June.	Difference per cent.
Sadabarts	27,752	32,498	+ 17
Poor-houses	3,879	3,263	— 15
Transport Corps	1,371	4,227	+208
Relief Committee	4,076	3,939	— 3
Rewari-Phulera Railway	840	—	—
Miscellaneous	1,738	431	— 52
Emigrant Depôt	—	5,635	—
Total	39,656	49,993	+ 12

As the earthwork on the Rewari-Phulera was finished the camps were broken up and those on gratuitous relief were provided for elsewhere. The large drop in the numbers under "miscellaneous" is due to some of the dependants on the Public Works Department works being taken into the poor-houses. The chief feature of the month was the large increase of sick and infirm persons relieved by the Sadabarts and of admissions into the camps of

Sirdar Dhanpat Rai. During the month also 5,635 returning emigrants received assistance on their passage through the State. The Resident is inquiring into the sudden drop in the Jhunjhunu and Hindaun poor-houses. The above figures show the inmates in only seven out of the twelve poor-houses, returns not having been received from the remaining five. Relief to emigrants appears for the first time in the gratuitous lists. Stragglers and wanderers have been regularly relieved throughout the famine, but they and their cattle are now systematically provided for in separate depôts. The Darbar have made most generous arrangements for these people who appear to be in a much worse plight than their fellow emigrants who chose Malwa as their temporary home. They have also fewer cattle with them. During the month 5,635 persons and 1,237 head of cattle received rations and fodder on their homeward march through the State. These were not relieved on each and every day of the month under report, but the figures show the number of individuals who received assistance on one or more days of their journey.

4. The general health of the people continues to be fairly good. Sporadic cholera broke out in different parts of the State, and in the city it assumed epidemic form. So far, however, it has failed to touch the large Transport Corps relief camp.

An excellent pattern of hand-plough has been evolved and 300 specimens have been distributed free of cost all over the various districts, where the village carpenters will be employed making others. The cattle are suffering much from all lack of nutritous fodder and, in some places, of water. The cattle-home, near the capital, has been largely expanded, and now contains 764 animals, the great majority of which are cows and young calves. They are fed on forage consisting of two parts of bhusa and one part prickly pear. Imports of food continue, but the operations have been much hampered by a congestion of traffic on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway owing to insufficient rolling-stock.

5. The following table gives the relief statistics of the Kishangarh State for the last nine months :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
October, 1899	5,412	1,600	7,012	5·3
November „	6,263	2,000	8,263	6·1
December „	6,685	2,233	8,918	6·6
January, 1900	6,240	3,037	9,277	6·9
February „	5,988	2,979	8,967	6·6
March „	6,598	3,615	10,211	7·5
April „	7,703	3,932	11,635	8·6
May „	9,255	3,769	13,024	9·64
June „	8,041	7,685	15,726	11·9

The numbers on works have fallen bv 13 per cent., but are still higher than they were up till the end of April. The Resident in paragraph 9 of his covering letter states that they have risen, but evidently the telegram despatched from Jaipur after the submission of the famine statement for June correcting the figures has been overlooked. The majority of the people who left the works when the early rain fell have returned, and the delay in the arrival of the monsoon is now taxing the resources of the administration. The programme of relief works, provided employment only up to the end of June, but new works are being opened. The delay has further dislocated the general scheme of relief as the authorities have now to spend money on works which had been set aside for takkavi loans. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have more than

doubled. The increase is largely confined to the people who are assisted in their own villages. Many workers of both sexes were thrown out of employment by the completion of some of the works on the programme. It was impossible to find other suitable projects close at hand, and as at the same time it was inadvisable to take the cultivators far from their homes at this season, the Darbar were forced to put them on subsistence rations. Close on 12 per cent. of the population of the State is now in receipt of relief of one kind or another.

6. As in Jaipur, considerable attention has been devoted to the invention of a workable hand-plough. I have seen a specimen, and it appears to be well adapted for its purpose. Its chief points are a crossbar which takes the place of the yoke and a wheel in front of the share. Large numbers of these ploughs have been made, and they are coming into general use. A new method of treating the "nil joar" as fodder has been so successfully followed in Kishengarh that I have suggested it for experiment in other States. The first crop is out about six weeks after sowing, and the plant, if irrigated, will then yield from eight to twelve cuttings at intervals of from five to six weeks. The seed appears to be in great demand, as it now fetches ten rupees a maund.

7. With their usual foresight the authorities have opened fodder depôts where the cultivators can purchase at favourable rates barley, bhusa mixed with dried kair stalks and prickly pear. The Darbar have been steadily purchasing both seed and cattle for advances to the villagers, but their operations have lately been curtailed owing to want of money. The Darbar have wisely resolved to make no advances of any kind until the monsoon rain reaches the State.

8. On the whole the condition of the people has been good. Cholera threatened to assume an epidemic form in Kishengarh, but was suppressed by vigorous measures.

During the month 6,469 returning emigrants with 2,791 head of cattle received food and fodder at the relief depôts at a total cost of Rs. 764-9-0. The average daily cost per man was one anna, and per animal two annas. The majority were in bad case.

Enclosure in No. 185.

Letter from G. R. Irwin, Esq., C.S., Resident at Jaipur, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2466, dated Jaipur, the 5th July, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, with my remarks, the famine reports for the month of June furnished by the Jaipur and Kishangarh Darbars.

Jaipur.

2. It will be noticed that the number on relief works in Jaipur as shown in the return has fallen by nearly 11,000 since the last monthly return was sent in. The decrease is mainly in Shekhawati, where the numbers at work under the Nazim have fallen by nearly 10,000, owing no doubt to the heavy showers of about a month ago which induced many people to start cultivating in their villages. No return has been received for the month from Torawati, where over 4,000 people were employed in May, so that the actual decrease in the whole State is probably less than 10,000. The labourers under the Public Works Department keep pretty steady. Sardar Bahadur Dhanpat Rai's camp is growing largely.

3. There is a discrepancy between the figures for gratuitous relief as shown in this and the last weekly return; the latter gives the average number receiving help during the week, while the monthly return gives as nearly as possible the figures for the last actual day of report.

4. I have made inquiries as to the sudden drop in the numbers of the inmates of the Jhunjhunu and Hindaun poor-houses.

5. The number of foreigners in Jaipur territory has gone down by nearly a half.

6. There are now nearly 800 animals in the cattle camp; almost double the number shown last month.

7. The other principal features of the month are the development of the arrangements for assisting returning emigrants and for the distribution of hand-ploughs: about 300 patterns have been sent out into all parts of the State.

8. In my narrative report I have referred to the state of the public health and the cholera epidemic.

Kishengarh.

9. The numbers on relief works have increased slightly and village doles have nearly trebled. The reasons are fully explained in the Darbar's report, the bulk of the increase occurred, I believe, just at the end of the month.

10. The distribution of hand-ploughs is being steadily pushed. Fodder difficulties are greatly aggravated by the delay in the arrival of the monsoon.

11. In the meantime detailed information is being systematically procured as to the people who will require and deserve help when the rains do come.

12. I see nothing else in the Kishengarh report calling for special comment.

Annexure.

JAIPUR STATE.

1. *Private relief.*—15,941 persons are employed on works in villages taken in hand by the zamindars by the help of Takkavi advances.

2. *Village relief.*—8,597 persons are receiving relief in grain and cash allowance as noted below :—

3,939 persons especially pardanashin women in cash through Relief Committee.
399 persons in cash through the Raj Engineering Department.
4,227 persons in grain through the Superintendent of the Jaipur Transport Corps.
32 persons in grain through the tehsildar at Khandar.

3. *Poor-house relief.*—Cooked food is given to 3,263 persons in the poor-houses as noted below :—

1,468	in the Jaipur	poor-house,	attached to the Mayo Hospital.
789	ditto	ditto	at Sawai Madhopur.
344	ditto	ditto	„ Jhunjhunu.
74	ditto	ditto	„ Hindaun.
184	ditto	ditto	„ Todabhim.
92	ditto	ditto	„ Moazzamabad.
302	ditto	ditto	„ Pauwar.

There are poor-houses also at Malpura, Toda Rai Singh, Chatsu, Niwai and Lalsot, the reports of which for June have not yet been received.

4. *General character of relief works.*—Earthworks.

5. *Physical condition of people.*—Generally fair, but in the tehsils of Malpura, Sambhar, Dauta, Ramgarh and Hindaun the people look emaciated.

6. *Deaths, if any, from starvation.*—335 deaths took place during the month as noted below :—

135 Jaipur subjects.
110 foreigners.
90 persons who could not be identified whether Jaipur subjects or foreigners.

7. *Food stocks.*—As mentioned in paragraph 7 of the remarks for May last.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—As reported in paragraph 8 of the remarks for February last.

9. *Changes in rates.*—As mentioned in paragraph 9 of the remarks for February last.

10. *Immigrants and Emigrants.*—About 965 immigrants in Nizamat Shekhawati, and about 2,000 immigrants in Nizamat Torawati can earn their livelihood by labour or by begging in different parts in the said Nizamats.

About 150 Jaipur subjects have left their homes in Sambhar for feeding their cattle in Dang.

250 people who had formerly left their villages have come back to their homes in Tehsil Niwai.

11. *Other matters connected with famine.*—As mentioned in the report for February last.

The cattle camp consists of 764 animals as noted below :—

—	Number.
Agricultural bullocks	45
Cows	348
She buffaloes	26
Calves	330
She buffaloe calves	15
Total	764

The animals are fed with 2,990 maunds of fodder, and 1,729 maunds of prickly pears mixed with it.

KISHANGARH.

Remarks for the month of June, 1900.

Delay in the setting in of the monsoon is causing anxiety.

The dry crops that were sown in May when there were slight showers of rain, as well as the grass that then grew, have perished for want of moisture.

There has been a great increase in the number of persons relieved under all heads especially under gratuitous relief in Sadabarts, village doles, &c.

The number of workers fell off during the 1st week of the month in consequence of the showers that had fallen in May, having stimulated agricultural operations which, however, got restricted soon afterwards, in the absence of further rains.

The numbers accordingly rose until the last week of June, when there was again a fall in numbers owing to some of the relief works having been closed on completion, and the resident workers not choosing to leave home to join other works still in progress.

This to a certain extent also accounts for increase in village doles and other methods of relief.

The relief works that are still in progress are now all nearing completion, and some of them would have been closed, were it not for extra grants made purposely for prolongation of work in the shape of extensions and improvements.

Some new projects have also had to be sanctioned so that these along with petty repairs to earthworks of irrigation bunds which have been undertaken wherever feasible and necessary in Khalsa villages, may help us in finding work at their homes for immigrants and for agriculturists hitherto employed on relief works.

The hand-ploughs that have been extemporised and found successful are now in general use in the absence of plough cattle ; and with the aid of Bohras or failing them, with takavi or gifts, arrangements have been made for giving employment to a number of persons in tilling their own holdings or those of others on hire.

This number is daily increasing. Further improvements have been made in the hand-ploughs by steeling and sharpening the edges of the subsoiler and thus making it more efficient in cutting through the soil and the roots of grasses and weeds (*vide* accompanying sample).

Arrangements have been made for making and supplying free of cost hand-ploughs at various centres.

The seed of the " nil joar " fodder, which has been found to be the most useful of all green fodders, has been in great demand both from outside and locally in consequence of the delay in the rains, and has consequently risen in price from Rs. 6 a maund to nearly Rs. 10 a maund.

Arrangements have been made for opening cheap fodder shops in consequence of fodder having become almost unavailable for sale. Imported barley, straw as well as dried kair and dry prickly pear are the fodders kept for sale, the green prickly pear having been entirely used up except at certain places.

The number of immigrants passing through Kishangarh on their way to Marwar, Bikaner, &c., is increasing. Such of them as are destitute are fed and provided with fodder at the various depôts which were opened at various road-side places for the purpose and which are now kept up at the cost of the " Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund."

Lists have been compiled showing the requirments of broken down cultivators as regards supplying of cattle, seed, fodder, &c., for the whole State inclusive of jaghir and other alienated villages.

Advances of cotton seed in general and of cattle and fodder and food stuff in exceptional cases, have been made during the month.

A general distribution of cattle, seed, &c., will not be made until the rains set in.

Purchases of cattle, seed, food stuffs and fodder are in progress.

The markets are well stacked and the wholesale prices of food grains although higher than in the last month, compare favourably with those of Ajmer, Beawar, Jaipur and other neighbouring markets.

The cultivators have been allowed the free use of the fresh leaves of the Khejra and those of the Dhok (Butosia Frondosa), and these and the kair bush wherever available and supplemented with a little dry fodder in the shape of barley, straw or bran are now in general use.

The garnet mines are worked as briskly as before, the State taking a moiety of the outturn from the workers.

The new marble quarries are worked by experts who have taken a lease of the quarries. They employ famine labour under State supervision.

The mica quarries are being blasted and excavated at various places, thus giving employments to hundreds of persons.

The measures adopted for the preservation of cattle at certain centres are still in force.

Drinking water wells are still being deepened as the level of water in them goes on continually sinking from month to month.

The water posts are still kept up owing to the holding off of the rains.

Now that grain has suddenly risen in price and is selling much above its original cost price, the cheap grain shops are again coming into general demand.

Cholera raged in an epidemic form at Sarwar, having originated from the camp on the Nasirabad-Kekri Railway earthwork.

The Sanitary Officer was sent over to Sarwar when he undertook measures for disinfection and sanitation on a large scale and ultimately succeeded in putting the epidemic down.

The public health has been otherwise good.

The poor-house has been quite free from cholera.

No death from starvation has been brought to notice.

The emigration statistics for the month are as follows:—

Emigration.		Immigration.	
Men.	Cattle.	Men.	Cattle.
14	—	1,240	757

The approximate expenditure under all heads on famine relief during the month has been as follows:—

——	Rs.
On relief works	34,866
On gratuitous and other relief	8,142
Total	43,008

No. 186.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3,086 *F., dated Abu, the* 14*th August,* 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 2,851 F., dated the 17th July. 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Reports of the Jaipur and Kishangarh States for the month of July, 1900, together with the covering letter of the Officiating Resident, No. 2,968, dated the 4th August, 1900.

2. The following table shows the numbers on relief in the Jaipur State during the last ten months :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
October, 1899	7,000	48,732	55,732	·19
November „	25,400	Not reported	25,400	—
December „	33,338	7,017	40,355	1·4
January, 1900	35,340	24,928	60,268	2·1
February „	41,961	32,212	74,173	2·6
March „	42,700	57,432	80,132	2·8
April „	54,515	25,663	80,178	2·8
May „	71,472	39,656	111,128	3·9
June „	60,596	49,993	110,589	3·9
July „	44,031	46,112	90,143	3·1

According to the above table, which gives the numbers of units of relief on the 25th July, the workers had fallen off by 27·3 per cent., but as the Resident points out, the returns from all the different centres had not been received when the statement was compiled, and any useful comparison with the totals of last month is impossible. This is true so far as the total for the whole State is concerned, but, if the statistics of the centres whose July returns were late are excluded from the totals of May and June, approximate estimate of the fluctuations can be obtained. This is given in the following table :—

Agency.	Work.	May.	June.	July.
Public Works Department	Western district	13,148	9,944	5,519
	Eastern and Central districts ...	11,191	12,455	7,025
	Jaipur city works	5,817	4,827	3,406
	Katli cut	—	1,581	1,325
	Tonk-Deoli Railway	—	652	—
	Rewari-Phalera	—	1,317	1,146
	Total	30,156	30,776	18,421
Civil	Nizamat Shekhawati	21,039	11,259	9,100
	„ Sambhar	810	504	1,446
	„ Malpura	4,122	3,441	3,425
	„ Sawai Madhopur ...	581	413	25
	Total under Nazims ...	26,552	15,617	13,996
Military	Transport lines camp	9.365	10,433	11,614
All	Grand Total	66,073	56,826	44,031

The Public Works Department works showed little change in June, but in July there was a drop of 40 per cent. On the Civil Agency works, on the other hand, the numbers fell by 40 per cent. in June, and by only 10 per cent. in July, while the number in the Transport lines camps have gradually but slowly risen during the quarter. Taking the works as a whole, there was a fall of 14 per cent. in June and of 21 per cent. in July. The land-owning classes were the first to leave the works, and the above figures would seem to indicate that they were chiefly employed on the Civil Agency works. The Transport lines camps were recruited from the lower strata of society, new admissions as a rule being destitute and emaciated. The first burst of the monsoon on the 8th and 9th July caused a drop on all works, but numbers began to increase rapidly as the subsequent break lengthened. On the second advance of the rain currents on the 28th July, there was another exodus which has been steadily maintained ever since.

3. The numbers on the gratuitous lists are shown as having fallen by 7 per cent. But it is difficult to ascertain, in the absence of any explanation by the Resident, how the total has been arrived at. The note in column 7 of the statement is not clear. In one part of that note it is said that 13,121 emigrants received relief, and in another that 11,241 persons were relieved in this way. Again, the statement gives the total of units relieved by the Local Committee as 3,876, while in paragraph 2 of the remarks this is said to be 3,953. All that can be safely assumed from the statement and remarks is that the sadabart numbers have fallen by one-third, that the persons relieved in poor-houses and the Transport lines camp have increased in much the same proportion, and that the number of rations issued to returning emigrants has more than doubled. Excluding the persons relieved by the Relief Committee or in the emigrant depôts, the total number on gratuitous relief would appear to have decreased by 20 per cent.

4. The condition of the people is generally fair, but in three tahsils the people appear to be much reduced. The recorded deaths, however, have fallen by 38 per cent. The remarks appended to the statement were evidently written before the last advance of the monsoon. Up to the 2nd August the northern corner of Shekhawati had been favoured with very little rain. But that tahsil has now received a heavy fall, and the prospects throughout the State are good. Grazing is available everywhere, and the large cattle camp has been closed. Nothing is said about the condition of the cattle, or the effect which the famine mortality will have on the area sown. No fresh cattle seem to have been imported by the State, and there is no sign as yet of any private import trade. Hand ploughs are being distributed as fast as they can be made.

5. The numbers on relief in the Kishangarh State during the last ten months are brought together in the following table :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
October, 1899	5,412	1,600	7,012	5·3
November „	6,263	2,000	8,263	6·1
December „	6,685	2,233	8,918	6·6
January, 1900	6,240	3,037	9,277	6·9
February „	5,988	2,979	8,967	6·6
March „	6,598	3,615	10,211	7·5
April „	7,703	3,932	11,635	8·6
May „	9,255	3,769	13,024	9·6
June „	8,041	7,685	15,726	11·9
July „	6,707	9,858	16,565	12·5

The numbers on works have fallen by 16 per cent. The first rain fell on the 9th of June, and during the next few days all parts of the State received sufficient rain to enable agricultural operations to be started. During the break of ten days which followed many of the people who had left the works flocked back, and the figures given in the statement are evidently those recorded on the 25th July, when the second advance of the monsoon again reached Kishangarh. The numbers on gratuitous relief have increased by 22 per cent., so that the aggregate number on relief is the highest on record, and represents 12½ per cent. of the total population of the State. An interesting account is given in the remarks of the present position, and of the measures taken to restore the normal condition of affairs. All the old works have been closed. Those persons who still require assistance in the way of labour are set to clear and till the land. The exceptional success of the hand plough in this part of Rajputana shows how the prejudices and traditions of the cultivators can be overcome by patience and persistence. The administration is receptive and has shown a consistent desire to accept and put in practice any new suggestions. Syam Sunder Lal's latest device to overcome the deficiency of plough cattle is the employment of donkeys for ploughing. As was to be expected, the cultivators are opposed to such an innovation, but to overcome these prejudices concessions of one kind or another are given to all who will try the experiment. Kumhars are now ploughing plots of khalsa land as an example to others.

6. Although the greater part of the early bajra has died, the other kharif crops have germinated well and cotton is said to be above the average. The authorities anticipate that the area under cultivation for the next harvest will actually be above the normal. If this should happen, Kishangarh will occupy a unique position among the badly affected States of this province. Grazing is now available everywhere, and the last instalment from the Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, amounting to Rs. 20,000, was received in time to enable the Local Committee to buy a large additional number of cattle in the North-Western Provinces.

While the rain has brought back cheerfulness and hope to the bulk of the population, the straitened condition of the smaller jagirdars and the respectable poor has become more acute, and must remain so until the first crops ripen. The system of cheap shops has been extended from the capital to the outlying tahsils. Altogether the administration has shown a commendable appreciation of the requirements of the people and the State at this particular stage of the famine.

Enclosure in No. 186.

Letter from Captain L. Impey, Officiating Resident at Jaipur, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2968, dated Jaipur, the 4th August, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, with my remarks, the Famine Reports furnished for July by the Jaipur and Kishangarh Darbars.

2. The figures of labourers are incomplete, returns having been received from 4 Nizamats only. It is, therefore, not possible to make any useful comments upon these statistics.

Sardar Bahadur Dhanpat Rai's camp at one time during the month contained about 21,000 people. Cultivators have gone off relief works in large numbers I believe; it is the labourers who are waiting on till they can find employment in weeding and field work when the crops come up.

3. The remark in paragraph 8 that prospects "are discouraging for want of rain" is not now correct. There has been good and general rain in the last ten days or so, and prospects are excellent.

4. The cattle camp has, as previously reported, been broken up.

KISHANGARH.

5. Prospects have materially improved during the last two or three days owing to good rain at Kishangarh itself and in the Rupnagar district, both of which had previously been rather short.

6. Thanks to an additional grant of Rs. 20,000 just received from the Central Famine Fund, a large number of additional bullocks, I think about 500, have been bought and are being bought in the North-Western Provinces and elsewhere, and in this respect prospects are much improved since this report came in.

7. The introduction of American maize sold at 16 seers per rupee is a great boon, and great gratitude is due to the Mission for the assistance so kindly given in this matter.

8. It is the non-labouring classes that now more especially require assistance, but I know the Darbar is doing its best for them.

9. The donkey experiment is interesting, and will, I hope, prove a success. It has worked encouragingly so far, and I have just heard that it has been thought worth while to import bigger and stronger donkeys than are locally procurable.

10. In Lawa also things are now most promising.

Annexure.

JAIPUR STATE.

Remarks.

1. *Private relief.*—1,057 persons are employed on works in villages taken in hand by the zamindars by the help of taccavi advances.

2. *Village relief.*—10,011 persons are receiving relief in grain and cash allowance as noted below: 3,953 persons, specially *pardah nashin* women, in cash through the relief committee, 232 persons in cash through the Raj Engineering Department, 5,826 persons in grain through the Superintendent of the Jaipur Transport Corps.

3. *Poorhouse relief.*—Cooked food is given to 4,261 persons in the poorhouses as noted blow :—

2,112	in the	Jaipur	poorhouse attached to the Mayo hospital.
871	„	„	at Sawai Madhopur.
657	„	„	at Jhunjhun.
97	„	„	at Hindaun.
184	„	„	at Toda Bhim.
92	„	„	at Mozzamabad.
248	„	„	at Panwar.

There are poorhouses also at Malpura, Toda Rai Singh, Chatsu, Newai and Lalsot, the reports of which have not yet been received.

4. *General character of relief works.*—Earthworks.

5. *Physical condition of people.*—Generally fair, but in the tahsils of Danta Ramgarh and Toda Rai Singh the people look emaciated.

6. *Deaths, if any, from starvation.*—206 deaths took place during the month as noted below :—

146 Jaipur subjects.
26 foreigners.
34 persons who could not be identified whether Jaipur subjects or foreigners.

7. *Food stocks.*—As mentioned in paragraph 7 of the Remarks for May last.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—As reported in paragraph 8 of the Remarks for February last. Prospects for the kharif crops appear to be discouraging for want of rain.

9. *Changes in rates.*—As mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Remarks for February last.

10. *Immigrants and emigrants.*—No reports about immigrants were received from the Nazims. However, the Nazims have reported that emigration of the Jaipur subjects has ceased owing to the commencement of rains and employment in agricultural operations.

257 people who had formerly left their villages have come back to their homes in Tahsil Newai.

11. *Other matters connected with famine.*—As mentioned in the Report for February last. The cattle camp consisted of 861 animals on 16th July as noted below :—

—	Number.
Agricultural bullocks	102
Cows	358
She-buffalos	80
Calves	353
She-buffalo calves	18
Total	861

The animals were fed with 617 maunds of fodder with 1,539 maunds of prickly pear mixed with it.

The cost of feeding from 29th April to 16th July 1900 has been Rs. 9,426-15-3.

KISHANGARH.

Remarks for the month of July, 1900.

Distress which had become acute in June last, went on intensifying with the prolongation of the drought till the 9th July, when showers set in, and made a sudden change in the situation for the better.

The showery weather lasted till the 15th and was followed by clear weather up to the 25th, from which date the weather has been continuously showery.

The numbers on relief fluctuated in consonance with the rains rising towards the latter part of each interval of clear weather and falling with the setting in of the rains and consequent stimulation of agricultural operations.

The numbers will now, it is expected, steadily decline, as the rainfall has up to this time been heavy enough for agricultural operations continuing long enough.

The rainfall has been general, varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the lowest in Kishangarh to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the highest in Sarwar.

All the regular relief works have been completed and closed.

The workers and their dependents have now been all drafted to their homes, and put to work either on (1) the repairs and earthwork of tanks and bunds which had been kept in reserve for this special purpose, or (2) on the clearance and tillage of land by means of hand ploughs, or (3) are put on the village dole or kitchen. The total number of persons relieved is now nearly $13\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total population of the State.

The rainfall, though not heavy enough and with longish breaks, has been very opportune and general.

The poor-house inmates have been sent home (with valedictory gifts), where they are put on village doles preparatory to being given a fresh start in life.

Hand ploughs have become very popular, and there is a great demand for them everywhere.

Thousands of them are now in use. They are supplied in large numbers, free of cost, from the manufactories started at head-quarters of parganas, and are also made and sold by village carpenters.

Ploughing and sowing have been carried on on a very extensive scale, the area already sown is reported to be above the average of normal years, whilst ploughing is still in progress.

The crops are all coming up very well, excepting the early dry sowings of May, most of which failed to survive the long spell of dry and hot weather, which obtained till the 9th of July.

The cotton crop is both extensive and thriving.

There was great scarcity of fodder, for which special arrangements had to be made to sell below the cost price at various centres.

These arrangements are still in force, but will soon have to be terminated.

The chain of depôts that were started for the support of foreign immigrants *en route* and patronised by the Indian Charitable Famine Fund have been doing very useful work. The numbers are now declining. The necessity for keeping up the depôts will, it is hoped, cease by the end of August.

The charitable relief operations carried on for the relief of broken down cultivators and artisans, and for giving them a fresh start in life, have proved very beneficial, and have evoked feelings of gratefulness for the British Government in every corner of the State.

Grants from the fund have been given in kind, and of these not too much at a time, so that with special arrangements for constant supervision by travelling supervisors there is left but little chance for abuse.

The measures for the preservation of cattle have been kept up. Now, however, the difficulty is over, as there is ample grazing at the various centres where they are collected.

Notwithstanding the great improvement in prospects and spirits that has been brought about by the rains, distress among the respectable people and among the jagirdars has not come to an end, on the contrary it has grown more severe.

The jagirdars, such of them as are not quite destitute, but have kept up their appearances and have been able to hold their own with taccavi or advances from their Bohras under Darbar's guarantee, now present a great difficulty as both these sources are now getting nearly exhausted.

Attempts are, however, being made to provide for them to the utmost.

The petty and broken down jagirdars have been, and are even now living on allowances on a low scale which is only slightly better than the famine scale. The markets are well stocked. Grazing is now available all over the State.

The bullocks that have been purchased in the North-Western Provinces and other places are on the road and will arrive here in a week or so when they will be distributed to deserving cultivators.

Arrangements have been made for the sale of American maize by Missionary Agency at 16 seers per rupee at certain centres, the Darbar defraying the cost of transport and other incidental expenses, and otherwise helping the agents.

The recipients of charitable grants, and all the poorer classes are greatly benefitted by this institution.

Public health has been good. There has been no cholera among workers or poor-house inmates, and but stray cases in the moffusil.

Donkey ploughs have been fitted up and set to work at several places as an experimental measure.

Various inducements have been offered for their adoption in the shape of concessions and prizes as well as free gifts of animals for drawing the ploughs.

The people will not take to them readily, as there is a general socio-religious prejudice against the animal, but it is hoped that the lower menial classes like Dhobis, Kumhars, Balais, Chamars, &c, may eventually come to adopt them; and then, with some improvements in its breed, the economic value of this useful and quiet animal will come to be generally realised in this part of the country, subject, as it is, to precarious and deficient rainfall.

The emigration statistics are as follows :—

Emigration.		Immigration.	
Persons.	Cattle.	Persons.	Cattle.
63	1	340	432

The bulk of the cattle emigrated has yet to come back home.

No deaths reported from starvation.

No. 187.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3,298 *F., dated Abu, the* 15*th September*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 3,086 F., dated 14th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Reports of the Jaipur and Kishangarh States for the month of August, 1900, together with the covering letter of the Officiating Resident, No. 3,398, dated 8th September, 1900.

2. In the following table the numbers on relief in the Jaipur State during the last eleven months are brought together :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitously relieved.	Total.	Percentage on Population.
October, 1899	7,000	48,732	55,732	·19
November „	25,400	Not reported	25,400	—
December „	33,338	7,017	40,355	1·4
January, 1900	35,340	24,928	60,268	2·1
February „	41,961	32,212	74,173	2·6
March „	42,700	57,432	80,132	2·8
April „	54,515	25,663	80,178	2·8
May „	71,472	39,656	111,128	3·9
June „	60,591	49,993	110,584	3·9
July „	44,031	46,112	90,143	3·1
August „	22,697	45,870	68,567	2·4

The workers have fallen by nearly one-half, the total being the lowest on record excepting that for October, 1899, when operations were first taken in hand. The Officiating Resident gives the number of workers last month as 46,112, but the statement forwarded with his report for July contains the figure quoted in the above table. The details of the various works during the last four months are as follows :—

Agency.	Work.	May..	June.	July.	August.
Public Works Department.	Western district	13,148	9,944	5,519	2,729
	Eastern and Central districts...	11,191	12,455	7,025	3,325
	Jaipur City works	5,817	4,827	3,406	1,451
	Katli cut...	—	1,581	1,325	—
	Tonk-Deoli Railway	—	652	—	748
	Rewari-Phalera Railway ...	—	1,317	1,146	—
	Total	30,156	30,776	18,421	8,253
Civil	Nizamat Shekhawati	21,039	11,259	9,100	6,418
	„ Sambhar	810	504	1,446	550
	„ Malpura	4,122	3,441	3,425	425
	„ Sawai Madhopur ...	518	413	25	—
	Total under Nazims ...	26,552	15,617	13,996	7,393
Military	Transport lines camp	9,365	10,433	11,614	7,051
	Grand Total... ...	66,073	56,826	44,031	22,697

The decrease has been most rapid on the civil agency works and especially in the Malpura Nizamat. The transport lines work on which the weakling gangs are employed naturally shows the least proportionate change.

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief are very nearly as large as in July. The explanation of the details given in column 7 of the statement is not easy to follow, and the Resident's letter throws no light on the matter. It appears, however, that the total includes 24,108 emigrants passing through Jaipur on their way to their homes in Western Rajputana. It is not clear, however, whether the figures given represent the number of meals or doles issued to such people or the actual number of aliens relieved. The report from the emigrant relief depôts in Alwar and the Eastern Rajputana States for the same period show that the returning emigrants were very few in number, and this is confirmed by the returns from the receiving depôts in Marwar. In previous reports the numbers are given as 5,635 for June and 13,121 for July. As the return movement was at its height in the month of June, it is difficult to believe that nearly 25,000 people returned in August. The details of the various branches of gratuitous relief are given below :—

Agency.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Difference per cent.
Sadabarts	27,752	32,498	20,851	10,919	−47·6
Poor-houses	3,879	3,263	4,261	2,342	−45·0
Transport corps	1,371	4,227	5,826	4,759	−18·3
Relief Committee	4,076	3,939	3,953	3,742	− 5·3
Rewari-Phalera Railway ...	840	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	1,738	431	232	—	—
Emigrants	—	5,635	13,121	24,108	+45·5
Total	39,656	49,993	48,224	45,870	− 4·9

The sale of grain at privileged rates by the Darbar to all within municipal limits at Jaipur has ceased.

4. The numbers on relief in Kishangarh since October last are as follows :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitously relieved.	Total.	Percentage on Population.
October, 1899	5,412	1,600	7,012	5·3
November „	6,263	2,000	8,263	6·1
December „	6,685	2,233	8,918	6·6
January, 1900	6,240	3,037	9,277	6·9
February „	5,988	2,979	8,967	6·6
March „	6,598	3,615	10,211	7·5
April „	7,703	3,932	11,635	8·6
May „	9,255	3,769	13,024	9·6
June „	8,041	7,685	15,726	11·9
July „	6,707	9,858	16,565	12·5
August „	—	7,421	7,421	5·6

The relief works were gradually closed during August and the total of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief fell by nearly one-quarter. The relief units as a whole have declined by more than 50 per cent., the total being only slightly above the lowest on record. Had it not been for an influx of professional beggars and destitute people of all kinds to share in the free distribution of food made on the occasion of the death of the late Maharaja, the total would have been even less. The authorities were forced to re-open the poor-house, and the hospitals were filled.

5. The emigrant relief depôts have also been closed after proving of the greatest benefit. Cheap grain shops have been a feature of the relief administration in Kishangarh since the very beginning of the famine, and within the last two months the system was extended to outlying parts of the State with the help of the American Missionaries who, in response to an application from the Kishangarh Local Charitable Committee forwarded through this office, generously contributed Rs. 5,000 towards this object. The Darbar have succeeded in importing a larger proportion of fresh cattle than perhaps any other State in the province.

6. The prospects in both Jaipur and Kishangarh are very bright. The earlier kharif staples will soon be on the market, and, thanks, to abundant rain, a good harvest is assured. A few showers towards the end of September should enable a larger area than usual to be put under rabi crops.

Enclosure in No. 187.

From Captain L. Impey, Officiating Resident in Jaipur, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 3598, dated Jaipur, the 8th September, 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with letter No. 2968, dated 4th August, 1900, from this office, I have the honour to submit the Famine Reports of the Jaipur and Kishangarh States for the month of August, 1900.

2. The number of persons shown on relief works in Jaipur is 22,697, as against 46,112 in last month's return, which, moreover, was not complete. The timely showers that fell during the month induced a large number of the labouring classes to return to agricultural pursuits. There was a decrease of 5,630 in the numbers employed at the relief work at Jaipur, and since the report was received many labourers have left the transport lines camp, and there are now only about 2,000 persons employed on this work.

3. Gratuitous relief was afforded to 45,870 people. It is not possible to compare the figures, as the returns are incomplete. The numbers in the poor-house at Jaipur City have fallen during the month from 2,112 to 1,770.

4. The condition of the people is improving. The bajra crop is fast approaching maturity, and directly this grain is placed on the market, the fall in prices will materially improve the situation. Grazing is available everywhere, and the cattle are gradually recovering their normal condition. There is no information available to show the mortality that has taken place among the herds. Satisfactory accounts have been received of the crops throughout the State, and the recent heavy falls of rain will enable the zamindars to bring a large area of land under cultivation for the "rabi."

5. In Kishangarh the relief works have been closed. Gratuitous relief was given, by means of doles, to 7,421 persons. The poor-house was emptied of its inmates, the worst cases being transferred to the Relief Hospital and the orphans sent to the city orphanage, while people who were unable to support themselves were placed on the village lists. It has, however, been found necessary to reopen the poor-house, as a number of destitute and emaciated persons were attracted to Kishangarh from the surrounding country by the feast given to the populace during the funeral ceremonies of the late Chief.

6. A sum of Rs. 5,000 was most liberally placed at the disposal of the Local Charitable Relief Committee by the American Mission. The money sent is being expended in the sale of cheap grain at 25 per cent. below the market price.

7. Grass is plentiful, and over 1,600 bullocks have been imported for the use of cultivators, while 1,000 more will be purchased shortly.

8. The crops in Kishangarh are doing well except in the Sarwar district, where some damage is reported to have occurred through excessive rain.

Annexure.

JAPUR STATE.

1. *Private relief.*—6,968 persons are employed at works in villages taken in hand by the zamindars by the help of taccavi advances.

2. *Village relief.*—8,501 persons are receiving relief in grain and cash allowance as noted below :—

3,742 persons, especially pardah nashin women, in cash through the Relief Committee.
4,759 persons in grain through the Superintendent of the Jaipur Transport Corps.

3. *Poor-house relief.*—Cooked food is given to 2,342 persons in the poor-houses as noted below :—

1,770 in the Jaipur poor-house attached to the Mayo Hospital.
392 „ poor-house at Jhunjhun.
90 „ „ at Muzamabad.
90 „ „ at Panwar.

There are poor-houses also at Hindown, Toda Bhim Sawai Madhopur, Malpura, Toda Rai Singh, Chatsu, Newai, and Lalsot, the reports of which have not yet been received.

4. *General character of earthworks.*—Relief works.

5. *Physical condition of people.*—Generally fair.

6. *Deaths, if any, from starvation.*—89 deaths took place during the month as noted below :—

30 Jaipur subjects.
8 foreigners.
51 persons who could not be identified whether Jaipur subjects or foreigners.

7. *Food stocks.*—As mentioned in paragraph 7 of the Remarks for May last.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The kharif crops are generally in good condition and prospects appear to be favourable.

9. *Changes in rates.*—As mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Remarks for February last.

10. *Immigrants and Emigrants.*—Immigration and emigration have ceased. 300 people who had formerly left their villages have come back to their homes in Tahsil Malpura.

11. *Other matters connected with famine.*—As mentioned in the Report for February last.

KISHANGARH.

Remarks.

There have been no regular relief works in operation during the month. They were closed last month, and the workers who had still to be employed were put on work on petty repairs to tanks and embankments or on tilling lands with hand ploughs.

The crops are in very flourishing condition, and the rains have been very opportune and general during the whole of the month, so that agricultural operations have been going on apace, and this has practically given employment to the people who were maintained on the relief works and to a good many of those who were put on village doles and kitchens.

The numbers relieved thus went on fast, declining from week to week, until towards the end of the month there were left none among the workers to provide for, whilst there were as many as 4,721 of them on the 2nd of August, 1900.

The numbers on doles, kitchens, &c., and other gratuitous relief have come down from 10,401 in the first week of August to 7,421 on the last day of the month.

The poor-house was also broken up towards the end of the third week, and the inmates were sent away to their homes with valedictory gifts to be employed in their own trades or put on village doles, and the sick among them were sent to the Relief Hospital, while the orphans were made over to the orphanage. The Nukta ceremony, however, attracted a large number of paupers, a good many of whom have been lingering at the capital, and these have had to be taken charge of and put into the poor-house, which has thus had to be re-started. Weeding is now giving employment to large numbers of people in villages all over.

Hand ploughs continue to be of great service to broken down cultivators and other agiculturists who are not fit for keeping up plough cattle. The cheap fodder shops have not been working during the month, as pasturage is ample and there has been no need for purchase of dry fodder.

The depôts for the provision of food and fodder to returning emigrants have now been closed. They have done very useful work, and there seems to be no necessity for keeping them open any longer, the few emigrants, who pass on their way back being provided from State or other Sadabarts at roadside villages or towns.

Ploughing for dry rabi (gram) has also commenced on a large scale, as the late rains have wet the ground, and facilitated its been broken up.

In consequence of an arrangement recently arrived at with the American-Indian Famine Relief Committee at Bombay, arrangements have been made for opening cheap grain shops at central towns and tahsils all over the State, where food-grain will be sold at 25 per cent. below the market price. These shops will be of great help to poor cultivators and village artizans and menials, especially as the cheap shops maintained by the Methodist Mission for sale of American maize have been closed.

The relief that has had to be given to petty jagirdars in the shape of monthly allowances on a scale hardly better than the famine scale has been continued during the month.

The inferior food-grains that grow wild in the jungle are now being generally used by the poorer classes, and those who have returned home from the poor-houses, &c.

The grains are now fast ripening. There are several kinds of them. Those most common are called in the vernacular—

Sawan, Koari Koora, Malicha Makra, Bharut, Chhiki, Kalpunchi.

Arrangements have been made for collection of all the various food-grains and grasses that grow wild and are used as human food.

These grains are either used by themselves or in combination with barley or bejhar.

Plough cattle are being purchased on a large scale by the Local Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee at various places in the North-Western Provinces, and in Haraoti, &c.

Over 1,600 bullock have been already purchased and given away, and a thousand more will be purchased during the month of September and the first week of October, thus bringing up the number of cattle to be purchased and given away to nearly 2,500.

The supply of bullocks is a novel feature of the present famine, and will go a long way towards restoring prosperity to the people.

Rabi seed will soon have to be distributed by the Indian Famine Charitable Committee (to destitute cultivators) which is preparing for it.

No. 188.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2210 F., dated Abu, the 19th May, 1900.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 1882 F., dated 22nd April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement† of the Bikaner State for the month of April, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 1328, dated the 9th May, 1900.

2. The numbers in receipt of both kinds of relief during the past seven months are shown in the marginal table. The figures representing workers

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* *See* p. 471 of Command Paper, No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October... ...	15,852	3,507	19,359	2·32
November ...	23,007	5,848	28,855	3·46
December ...	27,600	7,263	34,863	4·19
1900.				
January ...	27,264	7,546	34,810	4·18
February ...	30,043	8,163	38,206	4·59
March	26,843	5,961	32,804	3·94
April	29,690	7,101	36,791	4·42

have risen by 2,847, or 10 per cent. The total has very nearly reached that of February which is the highest on record. These figures, however, do not agree with the detailed list given in Political Agent's covering letter. If the poor-house totals are excluded, the numbers on works show an increase of 3,724 persons. These, however, probably include dependents. The Palana Railway extension camps contain by far the largest numbers, but the greatest proportionate increase has taken place on the city extension scheme and the works on the new palace outside the city. No new work has been opened during the month. A project was framed for the relief of the destitute on the Hissar border to prevent them from crowding the relief centres in that district, but the water supply was defective, so the Sohawa camp has been re-opened after being closed for nearly six weeks.

3. There has been a still larger proportionate rise of 19 per cent. in the numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief. The poor-houses account for one-fourth of this addition, so it is presumed that the remainder receive assistance at their own homes. One notable feature this month is the reduction in the number of persons hitherto dependent on private charity. A large proportion of these, the most useless section of the community, have been swept up by the State officials, and set to labour in one or other of the relief camps. The *pardah nashin* women also, who have hitherto been collected at various centres, have been given enough money to last them till the 7th of July, and have been allowed to go to their homes. This will be a very popular measure, and I do not think, under the present system of administration, it will be attended with any risk.

4. No other State, with the exception of Marwar, has had so much trouble or expense in connection with their emigrants in other provinces and States. During the month under review close on 1,000 people were brought back from various centres in the Delhi division of the Punjaub, and the Darbar are only awaiting a communication from the Commissioner of Lahore to send an agent to convey back Bikaneris from Multan, Lahore and Amritsar.

5. The general health is reported to have improved with the warmer weather, and the epidemic of cholera, which has been attended with so much loss of life and dislocation of relief arrangements in other parts of Rajputana has hitherto spared this State. No account has been given of the yield of the rabi harvest, but it must have been very trifling. Beyond small isolated patches in the beds of tanks in the Churu Nizamat and on the edge of the Ghaggar canals no spring crops were sown. Nothing is said as to the fate of the cattle or the condition of those which survive, but large numbers have probably found their way into the Bahawalpur State.

Enclosure in No. 188.

Letter from the Political Agent, Bikaner, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1328, *dated Bikaner, the 9th May*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the Famine Statement, together with a rough map (in duplicate) of the affected areas of the Bikaner State for the month of April, 1900.

2. The numbers relieved during the month compare as follows with those relieved in the past month :—

No.	Works.	March, 1900. Number of workers and on gratuitous relief.	April, 1900. Number of workers and on gratuitous relief.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	Gajner tank	3,950	3,763	—	187
2	Gajner road	2,054	2,046	—	8
3	Range and polo-ground	2,134	2,274	140	—
4	Railway earthwork	10,052	10,803	751	—
5	Repairs to Gajner road	618	548	—	70
6	Extension of City walls...	4,067	5,385	1,318	—
7	Hanumangarh fort	1,910	2,023	113	—
8	Suratgarh Railway Works	1,473	1,486	13	—
9	Railway earthwork at Mahajan... ...	621	723	102	—
10	New house, &c., at Chhapar	4,058	5,607	1,549	—
11	Repairs to fort walls at Sardarshahr ...	17	4	—	13
12	Ballast work at Delmera...	259	234	—	25
13	Bhinasar poor-house	716	914	198	—
14	Sheobari poor-house	225	290	65	—
15	Bhatinda Railway (contract work) ...	650	691	41	—
	Total...	32,804	36,791	4,290	303

It will be observed that, while the numbers relieved during the month show a net increase of some 4,000 persons, the expenditure is considerably in excess of that incurred in the past month, having risen from Rs. 81,495-11 to Rs. 95,320-13-9. The increase is due mainly to the payment of Rs. 13,000 to the *pardah nashin* women, who have been sent to their homes with cash allowances calculated to keep them going up to the 7th of July.

3. About 1,000 emigrants have already been brought back from the Delhi Division of the Punjab and placed at Hanumangarh. Those at Delhi have been retained under the orders of the Commissioner, as owing to the existence of cholera among them, it is not considered safe to let them travel by rail. An official has been selected by the Darbar and is ready to start to bring back the emigrants from Lahore, Multan and Amritsar, and the Commissioner of Lahore has been asked to inform this office when the Darbar official should start and where he should halt.

4. Orders were given some time ago for the commencing of a new relief work near Rajgarh, a town close to the frontiers of Hissar and Shekhawati which is much infested with beggars ; but, owing to the water of the place being brackish, the idea was abandoned and orders were issued for the re-opening of the Sohawa camp which was closed in March.

5. No cases of death by starvation were reported during the month.

6. The health of the people during the latter part of the month was good, the sickness which prevailed at the commencement of the hot weather having now disappeared from all the famine camps.

7. The rainfall of the month was 1 inch 14 cents in Nizamat Reni, 11 cents in Nizamat Sujangarh, and 8 cents in Nizamat Suratgarh.

Annexure.

Remarks by Major W. H. B. Robinson, I.M.S., in charge Political Agency, dated Bikaner, the 9th May, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—Private charitable relief has very much decreased during the month owing to a large number of people being employed on State relief works. The subscription list is still open.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—*Pardah nashin* women were paid in lump sum from 25th April to 7th July, 1900, and sent to their villages. The poor-houses at Sheobari and Bhinasar are still open, and old and infirm people are fed there.

3. *General character of relief works.*—A relief work was ordered to be opened at village Raitunda near Rajgarh; but, as the water in the wells there was reported to be brackish, the idea of opening a camp was given up, but the camp at Sohawa has been ordered to be re-opened instead.

Information as to the date on which the camp at Sohawa was opened is awaited.

No new work was opened during the month. Numbers and names of works in progress on the last day of the month—*vide* paragraph 2 of report.

4. *Physical condition of the people*—The health of the people on the various relief works has much improved during the month, and their present condition is good. Six hundred and twenty-seven in-door and 4,392 out-door patients were treated during the month at the several relief camps, of whom 70 died.

5. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—Nil.

6. *Food stocks and importation of grains*—Grain is being imported in large quantities, and the markets are well supplied.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—No change has taken place in general condition and prospects during the month under report.

8. *Changes in the rates of wages.*—No change has taken place in the rates of wages during the month under report.

9. *Emigration or immigration.*—An official was deputed to bring back Bikaner emigrants from the Delhi Division. About 1,000 people have been brought back, and steps are being taken to bring back emigrants from, Multan, Lahore, and Amritsar in the Punjab.

10. *Adequacy of food rations.*—Same as reported last month.

11. *Famine Fund and its expenditure.*—Amount expended during the month :—

—	Rs.	a.	p.
A—Workers	76,426	14	0
B—Gratuitous relief	5,893	15	9
Paid to *pardah nashin* up to 7th July, 1900 ...	13,000	0	0
Total	95,320	13	9

No. 189.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2,513 F., dated Abu, the 16th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2210 F., dated the 19th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India,

the Famine Statement* of the Bikaner State for the month of May, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter, No. 7 C., dated the 11th June, 1900.

2. The marginal table contains the numbers in receipt of relief during the last eight months. The numbers on the works have risen by 7,146, or nearly one-quarter, chiefly in consequence of the bringing back of large drafts of distressed Bikaneri emigrants from the Punjab. This month's total is 22 per cent. higher than that of February which previously held the record. The Resident's letter contains a list of the works in progress for longer or shorter periods during May. Two additional works have been opened; while, on the other hand, the large railway camps on the Pailana coal-fields diversion have been permanently closed. The transfer of the 10,803 workers to various other works must have been a matter of some difficulty. Nearly half of them were sent to Gajner, and the others were divided between the city extension project and the new camp near the palace outside the city. The 6,000 persons deported by train from the Punjab at the request of that Government have for the most part been employed in the large camp at Hanumangarh. The organisation and scale of wages on the works remain the same.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October	15,852	3,507	19,359	2·32
November ...	23,007	5,848	28,855	3·46
December ...	27,600	7,263	34,863	4·19
1900.				
January ...	27,264	7,546	34,810	4·18
February ...	30,043	8,163	38,206	4·59
March	26,843	5,961	32,804	3·94
April	29,690	7,101	36,791	4·42
May	36,836	8,432	45,268	5·44

3. The persons in receipt of gratuitous relief have increased by 18 per cent. This increase has been confined almost entirely to the dependents on works, but the attendance in poor-houses has also risen, so much so that the scope of private charity has contracted still further during the month under report.

4. The physical condition of the people is good, and the death-rate on the relief camps is remarkably low, amounting to only 13 per mille per annum. Cholera has been conspicuous by its absence, and small-pox has greatly diminished.

Rain fell in the north and east of the State, and sowings were begun in scattered villages, but the people were taken by surprise and some had not time to procure seed and bullocks. Hand ploughs are being made and taccavi lists are under preparation. Emigrants are voluntarily returning, but it is not stated whether they are accompanied by cattle.

Enclosure in No. 189.

Letter from Colonel H. A. Vincent, Resident in Bikaner, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 7 C., dated Camp, Abu, the 11th June, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the Famine Statement,* together with a rough map (in duplicate) of the affected areas of the Bikaner State for the month of May, 1900.

* Not printed.

2. The numbers relieved during the month compare as follows with those relieved during the past month :—

No.	Works.	April, 1900. Numbers of workers and on gratuitous relief.	May, 1900. Numbers of workers and on gratuitous relief.	Increase.	Decrease
1	Gajner tank	3,763	8,559	4,796	—
2	Gajner road	2,046	2,095	49	—
3	Range and polo-ground	2,274	2,970	696	—
4	Railway earthwork	10,803	—	—	10,803
5	Repairs to Gajner road	548	300	—	248
6	Extension of City walls	5,385	8,806	3,421	—
7	Hanumangarh Fort	2,023	7,824	5,801	—
8	Suratgarh Railway works	1,486	1,658	172	—
9	Railway earthwork at Mahajan	723	561	—	162
10	House and tank at Chhapar	5,607	6,539	932	—
11	Repairs to fort walls at Sardarshahr ...	4	25	21	—
12	Ballast work at Dulmera	234	276	42	—
13	Bhinasar poor-house	914	932	18	—
14	Sheobari poor-house	290	174	—	116
15	Bhatinda Railway (contract work) ...	691	876	185	—
16	New palace compound	—	2,999	2,999	—
17	New Sahwa tank	—	674	674	—
	Total	36,791	45,268	19,806	11,329

It will be observed that the numbers relieved show a net increase of 8,477 persons, which is due chiefly to the return of emigrants from the Punjab. The expenditure has nominally decreased, having fallen from Rs. 95,320-13-9 in April to Rs. 95,000-14-9 during the month under report, the reason being that, while the latter item includes the amount expended on the numbers increased during the month, the former includes the sum of Rs. 13,000 paid last month in a lump sum to the *pardah nashin* women for their maintenance up to the 7th of July.

3. The following is a list of the works re-opened and started during the month :—

(1) The camp at Sahwa in the Nohar Tahsil was re-opened on the 7th May.

(2) A new camp was formed near the Nathusar gate of the city on the 25th May.

(3) A new camp was formed near the palace on the 25th May.

The camps on the Surpura-Palana diversion were closed on the 25th May, as the scheme has been postponed. The people at the Deshnok and Palana Camps were transferred to Gajner, those at Rasisar to the Nathusar gate and those at Gharsisar to the new palace.

4. About 6,000 emigrants have already been brought back from the Punjab and more are being brought.

5. No cases of death by starvation was reported during the month.

6. The health of the people at the various camps was good throughout the month.

7. The rainfall of the month was 1 inch 97 cents in Nizamat Reni, 70 cents in Nizamat Sujangarh, 11 cents in Nizamat Suratgarh and 57 cents in Nizamat Bikaner.

Annexure.

Remarks by Col. H. A. Vincent, Resident in Bikaner, dated Camp, Abu, the 11th June, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—Private charitable relief has decreased very much during the month, as all the people needing relief have been employed on the State relief works. The subscription list is still open.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Old and infirm people are fed at the Sheobari and Bhinasar poor-houses.

3. *General character of relief works.*—The following works were re-opened and started during the month :—

(1) Camp at Sahwa in Nohar Tahsil re-opened on 7th May, 1900.

(2) A new camp near Nathusar gate to collect stone for city walls on 25th May, 1900.

(3) Camp at new palace to make compound wall opened on 25th May, 1900.

The camps on the Surpura-Palana diversion were closed on the 25th May, 1900, as the scheme has been postponed. The people at Palana and Deshnok have been drafted to Gajner, those at Rasisar to the Nathusar gate, and those at Gharsisar to the new palace.

Numbers and names of works in progress on the last day of the month—*vide* paragraph 2 of report.

4. *Physical condition of the people.*—The people employed on all the relief works are looking fit and strong. Three hundred and fifty-three indoor and 4,816 outdoor patients were treated during the month at the several relief camps, of whom 40 died.

5. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—Nil.

6. *Food-stocks and importation of grains.*—Markets well supplied. Importation of grain continues.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Rain has fallen in the tahsils named on the margin. Where it was sufficient, ploughing and sowing were commenced by such cultivators as possessed cattle and seed. Owing to the moisture lasting for three or four days only, and the cultivators not having cattle and seed ready, a small area only has been cultivated. Grass has grown in places where rain has fallen, which will provide food for the cattle for a time. The people have hitherto maintained themselves on relief works, and those that had emigrated are returning in the hope of early monsoon. Arrangements are also being made for distributing the grant received from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund and giving taccavi advances to cultivators, and to help them with seed, ploughs, and cattle as far as possible. Owing to the scarcity of cattle, hand ploughs are being introduced.

Tahsil.	Number of villages in which rain fell.	Quantity of rain fell.
Bhadra	22	60 cents to 1 inch and 80 cents.
Surpura	60	80 cents to 3 inches.
Lunkaransar	14	1½ inches to 2½ inches.
Dungargarh	19	1 inch to 2 inches.
Churu	2	80 cents to 2 inches.
Suratgarh	2	10 to 30 cents.
Mirzawala	3	15 cents to 1 inch.
Ratangarh	27	50 cents to 1½ inches.
Bikaner	17	80 cents to 2 inches.
Tibi	1	20 cents.
Anupgarh	1	60 cents.
Sardarshahr	1	1½ inches.
Sujangarh	22	1 inch 30 cents to 4 inches.

8. *Changes in the rates of wages.*—No change since last report.

9. *Emigration or immigration.*—About 6,000 people have been brought from the Punjab, and more are being brought back.

10. *Adequacy of food rations.*—No change has taken place since last report.

10. *Famine Fund and its expenditure.*—Amount expended during the month of May as detailed below :—

—	Rs. a. p.
Workers	87,175 14 0
Gratuitous relief	7,825 0 9
Total	95,000 14 9

His Highness the Maharaja inspected the camp at Mahajan and the Railway camps, besides making frequent inspection of the camps at Bikaner. Relief works are going on satisfactorily.

No. 190.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2849 *F., dated Abu, the* 16*th July*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2513 F., dated the 16th June, 1900, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Bikaner State for the month of June, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter No. 82 C.; dated the 10th July, 1900.

2. The marginal table contains the statistics of persons in receipt of relief during the last nine months. The numbers on works have fallen by 3,687, or 10 per cent. The fall is doubtless due to the few showers in June having tempted some of the able-bodied cultivators to begin work on their fields. I regret to say cholera at last made its appearance on the works. As it first broke out in the small relief camp established at Sampura in the Suratgarh tehsil for the reception of the emigrants brought back from the Punjab, it is probable that these people brought the germs of the disease with them. It next attacked the railway construction works, where platelaying had, in consequence, to be stopped. It finally found its way to the Gajner works. The disease was not of a virulent type, and the authorities everywhere proved equal to the occasion, preventing anything like panic. The great trouble on the majority of the works has been the shrinkage of the water supply, but the recent rain should have largely removed this.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October ...	15,852	3,507	19,359	2·32
November ...	23,007	5,848	28,855	3·46
December ..	27,600	7,263	34,863	4·19
1900.				
January ...	27,264	7,546	34,810	4·18
February ...	30,043	8,163	38,206	4·59
March	26,843	5,961	32,804	3·94
April	29,690	7,101	36,791	4·42
May	36,836	8,432	45,268	5·44
June	33,149	13,948	47,097	5·68

3. The numbers in receipt of purely gratuitous relief have risen by 65 per cent. The majority of the fresh additions to the lists are the destitute wanderers who were brought back from the Punjab or who returned voluntarily from Sind and Bhawalpur. The latest famine returns of the latter State show a decrease of several thousands in the total of foreigners in receipt of relief. The majority of these were said to be Bikaneris. Two new poor-houses have been opened at Churu and Rajgarh in the south-east of the State close to the Jaipur and Hissar borders. The totals in all the poor-houses have been much

* Not printed.

swollen by the removal of stray beggars from the city, and the drafting of infirm and sick dependants from the works.

4. The condition of the people is still described as good, but there has been increasing distress among the cattle. Scattered showers fell in different parts of the country, but were insufficient for agricultural operations. Imports continue, although there has been great difficulty in providing water for the railway engines, and the marked rise in prices is probably due as much to this fact as to the delay in the arrival of the monsoon.

Enclosure in No. 190.

From the Political Resident, Bikaner, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Abu, No. 82 C., dated Camp, Abu, the 10th July, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor General, the Famine Statement, together with a rough map (in duplicate) of the affected areas of the Bikaner State for the month of June, 1900.

2. The figures for this month compare as follows with those given in the statement for the preceding month :—

No.	Works.	May, 1900. Numbers of workers and on gratuitous relief.	June, 1900. Numbers of workers and on gratuitous relief.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	Gajner tank	8,559	6,315	—	2,244
2	Gajner road	2,095	1,968	—	127
3	Range and polo ground	2,970	2,717	—	253
4	Repairs to Gajner road (camp at Nál) ...	300	190	—	110
5	Extension of City walls...	8,806	8,629	—	177
6	Hanumangarh Fort	7,824	5,377	—	2,447
7	Suratgarh railway works	1,658	1,586	—	72
8	Railway earthwork at Mahajan... ...	561	979	418	—
9	House and tank at Chhápar	6,539	7,207	668	—
10	Repairs to fort walls at Sadár Shehr ...	25	61	36	—
11	Ballast work at Dulmera	276	246	—	30
12	Bhinasar poor-house	932	1,714	782	—
13	Sheobári poor-house	174	286	112	—
14	Bhatinda Railway (contract work) ...	876	1,046	170	—
15	New Palace compound	2,999	2,862	—	137
16	New Sahwa tank	674	1,582	908	—
17	Badopal tank	—	741	741	—
18	Rajgarh poor-house	—	2,500	2,500	—
19	Churu poor-house	—	1,091	1,091	—
	Total	45,268	47,097	7,426	5,597

It will be observed that the numbers relieved show a net increase of 1,829 persons, which is due to people having been brought back under arrangements from the Punjab, and to others having returned of their own accord from Sindh and Bhawalpur. Some cultivators also, who had left in hope of an early fall of rain in June, have returned to the works.

The expenditure has, in consequence of the increase in the number of relief workers, risen from Rs. 95,000-14-9 to Rs. 1,04,438-15-9, showing a net increase of Rs. 9,438-1-0 during the month under report.

3. The following is a list of the works opened and closed during the month :—

(1) A new camp at Rampuria in the Suratgarh Tehsil was opened on the 2nd June, 1900, but had to be removed to Badopal owing to the appearance of cholera there.

(2–3) Poor-houses were opened at Churu and Rajgarh.

(4) Camp of repairs to the Gajner road was closed on the 20th June, but was re-opened on the 26th idem, and a camp formed at "Nál."

4. No cases of death by starvation was reported during the month.

5. Generally speaking, the health of the people at various camps was good. Cholera has, however, made its appearance in some of the camps.

6. Food grains are being imported in large quantities, but owing to the holding off of the rain, prices have gone higher than in the last month.

7. Owing to a heavy fall of rain in few villages during the last month, cultivation was effected to some extent, but, for want of further rain, young crops are rapidly dying away.

8. The rainfall of the month was 37 cents in Nizamat Reni, 42 cents in Nizamat Sujangarh, 14 cents in Nizamat Suratgarh, and 7 cents in Nizamat Bikaner.

9. The distribution of the grant from the Indian Famine Charitable Reliet Fund to broken-down cultivators is in progress, and Rs. 2,616 were spent under object IV. during the month under report.

Annexure.

Remarks.

1. *Private relief.*—Private relief has much decreased and people needing relief have been employed on the State relief works. The subscription list is still open.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Besides the two poor-houses at Sheobari and Bhinasar, two more poor-houses were opened at Churu and Rajgarh.

3. *General character of relief works.*—The following works were opened and closed during the month :—

(1.) A new camp was opened on the 2nd June, 1900, at village Rámpura, in the Suratgarh tehsil, but it was closed on the 22nd June, owing to the breaking out of cholera there, and the people were removed to Badopal, a village at a distance of fourteen miles in the Hanumangarh tehsil.

(2.) Camp of repairs to the Gajner Road was closed on 20th June, 1900, but owing to an outbreak of cholera at Gajner, a new camp was formed at "Nál" on the 26th June, 1900, to detain there the people coming from Gajner.

Numbers and names of works in progress on the last day of the month, *vide* paragraph 2 of report.

4. *Physical condition of the people.*—The health of the people on different relief works was generally poor, excepting the outbreak of cholera at Gajner and Rámpura. Four hundred and thirty-six indoor and 6,061 outdoor patients were treated during the month at the several relief camps, of whom 53 died.

5. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—Nil.

6. *Food stocks and importation of grains.*—There are no food stocks, but food grains are being imported in large quantities. Prices have risen in consequence of the holding off of the rains.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Rain badly wanted. Cultivation was effected to some extent during the last month, but, for want of further rains, the young crops are dying away. The cultivating classes are still working at the famine camps. The rainfall of the month in the various tehsils is noted on the margin.

Bikaner	... 20 cents.
23 villages of Bikaner	... From 23 cents to 1 inch.
4 „ Lunkaransar	... „ 50 „ 1 „
Sujangarh	... 64 cents.
Sardar Shehr	... 20 cents.
12 villages of Sujangarh	... 40 cents to 1 inch.
Ratangarh	... 85 cents.
16 villages of Ratangarh	... 50 cents to 1½ inches.
Churu	... 80 cents.
Nohar	... 1 inch 2 cents.
11 villages of Nohar	... 40 cents to 2½ inches.
4 „ Bahadra	... 20 cents to 1½ inches.
Hanumangarh...	... 26 cents.
Suratgarh	... 29 cents.
25 villages of Suratgarh	... 2½ cents to 10 cents.
Anupgarh	... 2 cents.

8. *Changes in the rates of wages.*—No change since last report.

9. *Emigration or immigration.*—Emigration has ceased, and people are returning in hope of the advent of monsoon.

10. *Adequacy of food rations.*—No change has taken place since last report.

11. *Famine fund and its expenditure.*—

	Rs. a. p.
Workers	91,771 4 0
Gratuitous relief	12,667 11 9
Total	1,04,438 15 9

General.—The relief works are going on satisfactorily. Officials have been sent out to distribute the money granted by the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee, and arrangements are also being made for "Taccavi" advances to cultivators. The increase at Bhinasar is chiefly due to the removal of stray beggars from the city as a sanitary precaution, and on account of the drafting of gratuitously fed and feeble persons without friends or relations from the various city camps.

The poor-houses at Rajgarh and Churu were opened to keep beggars wandering in and around these towns in organized camps. The local Seths are assisting in the expenses.

No. 191.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3125-F., dated Abu, the 17th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2849-F., dated the 16th July, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statement* of the Bikaner State for the month of July, 1900, together with the Resident's letter, No. 1995, dated 7th August, 1900.

* Not printed.

2. The numbers on relief of all kinds during the last ten months are brought together in the marginal table. A slight shower of rain fell in Bikaner city on the 9th July, but the monsoon actually burst on the following day. During the next five days showers fell almost all over the State. These were sufficient to enable agricultural operations to begin everywhere except in the extreme north-west. The succeeding break did very little damage and general rain again fell during the closing days of the month, causing a rapid exodus from the works. The majority were entirely deserted and have been closed. On the last day of the month the numbers had dwindled from over 33,000 to under 900. Probably a small proportion will return, but the latest rain reports are very encouraging. Although the monsoon was so long delayed, the total fall since the 1st June is now nearly equal to the average. Four works are still kept open for necessitous cases. The eagerness of the people to leave is evinced by the fact that the city extension works, which it is most important should be pushed on, were abandoned, and it has been found necessary to employ ordinary labour at the usual contract rates. All the workers before leaving received one week's wages to enable them to make a fresh start.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage on Population.
1899.				
October ...	15,852	3,507	19,359	2·32
November ...	23,007	5,848	28,855	3·46
December ...	27,600	7,263	34,863	4·19
1900.				
January ...	27,264	7,546	34,810	4·18
February ...	30,043	8,163	38,206	4·59
March ...	26,843	5,961	32,804	3·94
April	29,690	7,101	36,791	4·42
May	36,836	8,432	45,268	5·44
June	33,149	13,948	47,097	5·68
July	865	3,967	4,832	0·58

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have fallen by 71 per cent. As was explained, however, in the last report, the July total, which was two-thirds higher than that of June, was unduly swollen by the large numbers of destitute people who were either brought back from other provinces or returned of their own accord. As compared with May, the gratuitous figures have fallen by only slightly over one-half. On the 31st July there were still nearly 4,000 people on this branch of relief. In addition to the persons supported by the State in this way, 3,103 are fed at the expense of the rich bankers of Churu in the south-east. The doles are small and the recipients are chiefly professional beggars or wanderers. Even including this latter contingent the total of units on relief is the lowest on record since the operations began in October 1899.

4. The condition of the people is said to be good. Cholera has disappeared and the autumn fever has not yet made its appearance. The condition of the surviving cattle is still poor, but grazing is now available except in a few isolated villages. Food is freely coming into the country and all anxiety about the water supply is at an end. Altogether prospects are good. The report is silent as to the number of cattle available for agriculture and as to the efforts made to replace the recent heavy losses.

Enclosure in No. 191.

Letter from Colonel H. A. Vincent, Resident, Bikaner, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1995, *dated Bikaner, the 7th August*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, the famine statement, together with a rough map (in duplicate) of the affected areas of the Bikaner State for the month of July.

2. Owing to general rain in the greater part of the State, and consequent return of the people to their villages to resume cultivation, most of the relief works were closed during the month. A few are still maintained, the names of which, together with the numbers employed thereon and on gratuitous relief, are given in the following statement:—

No.	Works.	Number of		Total.
		Workers.	Gratuitous relief.	
1	New Palace Compound	504	94	598
2	Compound walls of houses of Private Secretary and Mir Munshi, Agency.	55	—	55
3	Repairs to Agarwala well at Sardar-shahr ...	35	—	35
4	Ballast work at Dulmera	271	40	311
5	Poor-house at Bhinasar	—	398	398
6	Poor-house at Sheobari	—	332	332
7	Poor-house at Churu	—	3,103	3,103
	Total	865	3,967	4,832

The numbers relieved accordingly fell from 47,097 in June to 4,832 in the month under report, and the expenditure from Rs. 1,04,438-15-9 to Rs. 95,538-13-3, including a week's ration given to the people when leaving for their homes.

3. No cases of deaths from starvation were reported during the month.

4. There were 4,048 out and 317 in-patients treated at the various camps during the month, of whom 36 are reported to have died.

5. The public health was good, no cholera cases having occurred after the 6th July.

6. The rainfall during the month amounted to 1 inch 22 cents. in Nizamat Bikaner, 1 inch 14 cents. in Nizamat Sujangarh, 2 inches 9 cents. in Nizamat Reni, and 1 inch 17 cents. in Nizamat Suratgarh.

7. No report has yet been received of the distribution during the month of the grants made to the Durbar by the Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Annexure.

Remarks.

1. *Private relief.*—A poor-house is kept open at Churu at the expense of the local seths, the late Rai Bahadur Bhagwandass and Seth Kanaya Lall Bagla. The number of persons gratuitously fed on the last day of the month was 3,103.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Two poor-houses (1) at Bhinasar, (2) at Sheobari, are kept up by the State.

3. *General character of relief works.*—In consequence of there being a general fall of rain, people on works commenced to return to their villages of their own free will to

begin cultivation. The following works were closed during the month under report, on the dates noted against them :—

Works.	Dates.
1. Excavation of tank at Badupal	30th June.
2. Excavation of tank at Sahawa	16th July.
3. Camp at Nal	16th ,,
4. Suratgarh work	17th ,,
5. Sardargarh (opened temporarily on 1st July) ...	17th ,,
6. Ganga Rissala range and polo-ground	18th ,,
7. New Gajner road	18th ,,
8. Hanumangarh work	19th ,,
9. Chhapar work	20th ,,
10. Mahajan work	21st ,,
11. Gajner work	24th ,,
12. Poor-house at Rajgarh	28th ,,
13. City wall work	27th ,,

4. *Physical condition of the people.*—Good. People leaving the camps were given a week's ration to enable them to reach their villages.

5. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—*Nil.*

6. *Food stocks and importation of grains.*—Nothing worth mentioning since last report.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Rain has fallen in the State, and cultivation is progressing. Much depends on the course the monsoon might take in future.

8. *Changes in the rates of wages.*—Nothing worth mentioning since last report.

9. *Emigration or Immigration.*—Emigration has ceased.

10. *Adequacy of food rations.*—Nothing worth mentioning since last report.

11. *Famine fund and its expenditure :—*

	Rs. a. p.
Workers	83,737 14 6
Gratuitous relief	11,800 14 9
Total...	95,538 13 3

12. The relief-work has nearly been brought to a close. The poor-houses now open will be kept up for some time more till the work is over.

No. 192.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3284 *F., dated Abu, the* 13*th September*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3125 F., dated the 17th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Bikaner State for the month of August, 1900, together with the Resident's letter No. 2290–58, dated the 5th September, 1900.

* Not printed.

2. Although the number of workers has increased, the relief works as such have all been closed. 1,409 of the 1,468 labourers are employed on the city extension scheme (which the Darbar are very anxious to complete) at modified market rates. The numbers on gratuitous relief have declined very slightly. With the exception of a few orphans, all persons in receipt of this form of State aid are confined to the three poor-houses, and will be gradually drafted to their homes as they become fit to travel.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October ...	15,852	3,507	19,359	2·32
November ...	23,007	5,848	28,855	3·46
December ...	27,600	7,263	34,863	4·19
1900.				
January ...	27,264	7,546	34,810	4·18
February ...	30,043	8,163	38,206	4·59
March	26,843	5,961	32,804	3·94
April	29,690	7,101	36,791	4·42
May	36,836	8,432	45,268	5·44
June	33,149	13,948	47,097	5·68
July	865	3,967	4,832	0·58
August	1,464	3,707	5,171	0·62

3. Cholera has re-appeared, and claimed 93 victims during the month. Otherwise the condition of the people appears to be good. There has been ample rain all over the State, and the prospects generally are promising.

Enclosure in No. 192.

Letter from Colonel H. A. Vincent, Resident at Bikaner, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2290–58, dated Bikaner, the 5th September, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General, the Famine Statement, together with a rough map (in duplicate) of the affected areas of the Bikaner State for the month of August, 1900.

2. Sufficient rain having fallen in all the tahsils of the State, ploughing and sowing operations were carried on vigorously during the month.

3. The camp at the new palace compound was closed on the 31st July, and that at Dulmera on the 29th August.

4. There were only 1,464 workers, of whom 1,409 are employed on the new city wall, which will take about two months to complete.

5. The inmates of the poor-houses at Bhinasar, Sheobari, and Churu numbered 485, 235, and 2,956 respectively. The last-named is maintained by private charity. In addition to these, 47 orphans are in the Ganga Rissala lines. About one-third of the poor in the house at Bhinasar are fit to go to their homes, and it is proposed to give them from seven to fourteen days' rations, according to the distance they have to travel, to enable them to do so.

6. The total expenditure during the month amounted to Rs. 7,127–10–3.

7. No cases of deaths from starvation were reported during the month.

8. Two hundred and three out and fifty-six in-patients were treated at the Bhinasar poor-house, of whom two died.

9. There were 217 cases and 93 deaths from cholera in the Bikaner city and suburbs during the month.

10. The balance of the grants made to the Darbar by the Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund amounted to Rs. 77,384 on the 1st July, 1900, Rs. 25.000 were received during the month, giving a total of Rs. 1,02,384. Of this, Rs. 45,391-2-5 were expended during the month, leaving a balance of Rs. 56,992-13-7 at its close. No report as to what amount was expended during the month of August has yet been received.

Annexure.

Remarks.

1. *Private relief.*—Private charitable relief decreased considerably during the month under report.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Old and infirm people are fed at Bhinasar, Sheobari, and Churu poor-houses.

3. *General character of relief works.*—The camp of new palace compound was closed on 31st July, 1900, and that at Dulmera on 29th August, 1900.

The work of extension of city walls, started on contract from the 28th July, will be completed in about two months. Some orphans are being fed at the Ganga Rissala from the 1st August, 1900.

4. *Physical condition of the people.*—The people employed on relief works are looking fit and strong.

5. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—Nil.

6. *Food-stocks and importation of grains.*—Nothing worth reporting since last report.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Sufficient rain has fallen in all the tahsils of the State. The cultivating classes have returned to their villages, and ploughing and sowing operations have been carried on vigorously. The grass has come up everywhere.

8. *Changes in the rates of wages.*—Nothing worth reporting since last report.

9. *Emigration and Immigration.*—Emigration has ceased.

10. *Adequacy of food rations.*—Nothing worth mentioning since last report.

11. *Famine fund and its expenditure.*—Amount expended during August, 1900, is as detailed below :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Workers	6,428	10	3
Gratuitous relief	699	0	0
Total	7,127	10	3

No. 193.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wylie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2,198, *dated Abu, the* 17*th May,* 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1,856 F., dated the 18th April, 1900,* I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement† of the Bharatpur State for the month of April, 1900, together with the covering letter, No. 2,382, dated 10th May, from the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States.

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* See page 460 of Command Paper, No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

2. The marginal table gives the numbers in receipt of both kinds of relief during the last six months. The numbers on works, which fell so rapidly during March, have risen again by 44 per cent., and are now higher than they have been at any time during the famine. This increase was anticipated in my review of the operations during March. No particulars are given of the projects in hand, but these are mainly extensions of the large irrigation system which has been gradually developed during the past few years. 6,766 persons, or slightly more than half of the total number on works, are paid at contract rates. The average daily cost of relief per head on works comes to annas 1–8·4, but the expenditure on establishment, tools, and plant is evidently included. Last month the corresponding amount was annas 2–3·5. In the absence of any explanation, it may be assumed that this decline of 34 per cent. in the average wage is mainly due to the fact that the majority of the persons who left the works for the harvest and have now flocked back in increasing numbers were employed on task work. The contract labourers were not tempted away.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
November ...	8,000	700	8,700	1·36
December ...	12,298	973	13,271	2·07
1900.				
January ...	10,288	1,332	11,620	1·81
February ...	10,816	943	11,759	1·84
March	8,546	1,019	9,565	1·50
April	12,341	1,007	13,348	2·09

3. The total of the persons on gratuitous relief has remained fairly steady, but the numbers in individual poor-houses show great fluctuations. The three State poor-houses held 429 inmates in March. This total has fallen in April to less than half. In the remarks appended to the statement, the decrease is said to be due partly to some of the inmates having gone on the works and partly to others having gone to their fields. As harvest operations were over before the close of the month, the latter explanation can hardly be correct, and the returns from the private poor-house at Bharatpur, showing an increase of 36 per cent., would seem to indicate that many of those who left joined the institution at Bharatpur.

4. The condition of the people is described as generally good. Food-stocks are ample, and the rabi harvest has resulted in a fall of 1½ per cent. in wheat, 11 per cent. in barley, and of 2 per cent. in bejhar. The harvest is said to have been 11 annas in the rupee, or nearly three-quarters of the normal yield. The tanks are now all dry, but no shrinkage of well water is reported. The natural fodder has been exhausted, but there must be a good supply of straw from the cereals. Another hailstorm visited the State early in April, the affected area was, however, very small, and only slight damage was done to the tobacco and cotton.

Enclosure in No. 193.

Letter from Major C. Herbert, Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2,382, *dated Bharatpur, the* 10*th May*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the Monthly Famine Statement and the Report under sections 15 and 16 of the Abstract Famine Code received from the Bharatpur State Council for the month of April, 1900.

2. Two copies of the skeleton maps are also attached.

Annexure.

Remarks by Sohan Lal, Rai Bahadur, Member and Secretary, State Council, Bharatpur, dated Bharatpur, the 8th May, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—His Highness the Maharaja continued alms as reported before.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—There are three poor-houses as mentioned below, and they are maintained by contributions from temples received through His Highness and local subscriptions. The income and expenditure are shown below :—

Poor-houses opened in December last.	Amount contributed for 6 months at the rate of Rs. 75-8-11.	Local subscriptions up to 28th April.	Total.	Expenditure up to 28th April.	Balance.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Dig	455 5 6	183 0 0	636 5 6	501 15 6	134 6 0
Weir	453 5 6	103 0 0	556 5 7	338 10 9	167 10 10
Kama	*377 12 7	738 8 0	1,116 4 7	770 4 0	346 0 7
Total	1,286 7 7	1,024 8 0	2,308 15 7	1,610 14 3	648 1 5

* For five months only.

(*a*) The number of persons in these poor-houses on the last day of the month was 201, and the amount spent in April is Rs. 368-4-8. The cause of this decrease is that persons after acquiring sufficient strength have gone either to relief works or to their fields.

(*b*) Cooked food is given to inmates, and ½ seer flour and one chittack pulse (dal) are given to each *pardah nashin* woman at Kama : 49 is the number of such women getting gratuity.

(*c*) There is no sickness in poor-houses.

(*d*) The scale of rations allowed to inmates is the same as reported before.

There is also one poor-house at Bharatpur maintained by public donations. The number of inmates in this poor-house is 806.

3. *General character of relief works.*—All relief works are under the Public Works Department. Number on relief works is 12,341, and the expenditure for this month is Rs. 39,433. The number of persons paid on contract system and at rates higher than famine rates is 6,766. The scale of rations allowed to persons on works is the same as mentioned in the previous report.

4. *Physical condition.*—Generally good.

5. *Death, if any, from starvation.*—None, except one suspicious death in Tahsil Uchin.

6. *Food-stocks.*—There is no fear of grain being scarce, owing to the import of grain from outside and the rabi crop having been harvested.

Rates are given below in seers and chittacks per rupee :—

	Wheat.	Grain.	Barley.	Bejhar.	Jowar.	Bajra.
	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.
By end of March	11 13	12 8	14 14	14 3	12 0	11 0
„ April	12 0	12 8	16 8	14 8	11 0	10 8

Rates for this month are nearly the same as for the last month.

7. *Importation of grain.*—Quantity of imported grain cannot be known for reasons mentioned in previous reports.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The damage caused by hail in the last month was reported in the previous report. In this month hailstones fell in Tahsil Akheygarh, and damaged a little the tobacco and cotton crops.

9. *Change in rates of wages.*—No change.

10. *Emigration*—None are reported to have emigrated.

11. *Other matters necessary for the information of the Darbar.*—Water has dried up in many ponds; drinking water for cattle is drawn from wells; fodder is scarce, but this deficiency will be made up by new straw.

The following table shows the produce of rabi crop:—

—	Annas in a Rupee.
Dig	11
Kama	10
Kumher	11
Pahadi	10
Nagar	10
Bharatpur	12
Uchin	14
Rupbas	12
Biana	14
Bhusawar	12
Akheygarh	12

No. 194.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2506 F., dated Abu, the 15th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2198 F., dated 17th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement of the Bharatpur State for the month of May 1900, together with the covering letter of the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, No. 2823, dated 7th June, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief works have fallen by 6½ per cent. during the month. No explanation has been given of this decrease, but it is more than probable that those who left the works had not come to an end of their resources and were not inclined to labour for a famine wage. This impression is borne out by the rise in the total of persons employed on contract work. Only 36 per cent. of the workers were paid at famine rates as compared with 46 per cent. during April. If distress were widespread or acute the number of contract workers would be small. The average cost of relief per head on works has risen by 20 per cent. from Rs. 3-3-1 to Rs. 3-13-5, although prices have advanced by only 10 per cent. All these figures point to the fact that the famine in Bharatpur is principally one of high prices.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
November ...	8,000	700	8,700	1·36
December ...	12,298	973	13,271	2·07
1900.				
January ...	10,288	1,332	11,620	1·81
February ...	10,816	943	11,759	1·84
March	8,546	1,019	9,565	1·50
April	12,341	1,007	13,348	2·09
May	11,508	1,209	12,717	1·99

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have risen by 20 per cent., but the aggregate is only 1,209. The number of inmates in all four poorhouses has also increased, the rise being largest in the private poorhouse at Bharatpur.

The relief of *pardah nashin* women has been extended to all the different tahsils. During May 166 persons of this class were assisted as compared with 49 in April.

4. No change for the worse in the condition of the people is reported. Prices have risen, but they are still well below the scale that prevailed from November to March. The yield of straw from cereals and pulses has been exceptionally poor, and my remarks on this subject last month appear to have been too sanguine. In many places the cattle are reduced to eating leaves, and are for the first time described as emaciated. Adequate arrangements have been made for the relief of returning emigrants in depôts established on the high roads leading from Gwalior and the trans-Jumna tract to the west.

Enclosure in No. 194.

From the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2823, *dated Bharatpur, the 7th June*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the Monthly Famine Statement, and the Report under Sections 15 and 16 of the Abstract Famine Code, received from the Bharatpur State Council for the month of May, 1900.

2. Two copies of the skeleton maps are also attached.

Annexure.

Remarks by Muhammad Rashid-ud-din, Member, for Secretary, State Council, Bharatpur.

(1) *Private relief.*—His Highness the Maharaja continued giving alms as reported before.

(2) *Village and poorhouse relief.*—There are three poorhouses as mentioned below, and they are maintained by contributions from temples received through His Highness and local subscriptions. The income and expenditure are shown below :—

Poor-houses.	Contributions from Temples.	Local subscription.	Total income up to end of May.	Expenditure till end of May.	Balance.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Dig	528 14 6	199 12 0	728 10 6	595 9 2	133 1 4
Weir	528 14 6	131 0 0	659 14 6	487 11 3	172 3 3
Kama	528 14 6	1,031 8 2	1,560 6 8	979 8 0	580 14 8
Total	1,586 11 6	1,362 4 2	2,948 15 8	2,062 12 5	886 3 3

The number of persons in these poorhouses 224 and 82 *pardah nashin* women were given relief. The total expenditure of this month amounted to Rs. 507-0-9.

In Kama 49 *pardah nashin* women were supplied with 9 chittacks of grain each.

Rs. 2,000 have been sanctioned by the Council for maintenance of *pardah nashin* women, and the amounts written below have been allotted for tahsils for one month :—

——	Rs.	——	Rs.
Dig	28	Oochein	270
Kama	107	Rupbas	86
Pabadi	3	Biana	133
Nagar	40	Bhusawar	28
Kumher	50	Akheigarh	14
Bharatpur Pargana	20	Bharatpur City	212

In Bharatpur the work of distribution has begun, and from the 19th to 25th May, 1900, 35 women have been given Rs. 2-5-6 each for one month. Regarding other tahsils report will be made next month. Bharatpur poorhouse is maintained by public donations. The number of inmates is 936, and total cost for this month is Rs. 1,078.

(*b*) Cooked food is given to the inmates.

(*c*) There is no sickness in poorhouses, only one old man named Badam died at Bhusawar of some chronic disease and old age.

(*d*) The scale of rations allowed to inmates is the same as reported before.

(3) *General character of relief works.*—All relief works are under the Public Works Department; the number of persons on these works is 11,508, and the expenditure for this month amounted to Rs. 44,199. The number of persons paid on contract system and at rates higher than famine rates is 7,427.

The scale of rations in chittacks or in case of cash the amount and the grain equivalent :—

(*a*) Men, 2 annas = 26 chittacks at market rate.

(*b*) „ 1½ „ = 19½ „ „

Women, 1¼ „ = 16¼ „ „

(*c*) Men, 1¼ to 1 = 16¼ and 13 chittacks at market rate.

Women, 1 anna = 13 „ „

Boys and girls, 0–0–9 = 9¾ „ „

(4) *Physical condition.*—Generally good.

(5) *Death, if any, from starvation.*—None.

(6) *Food-stocks.*—The same as reported before.

Rates are given below in seers and chittacks per rupee :—

——	Wheat.	Gram.	Barley.	Bejhar.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Gojra.
	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.
April	12 0	12 8	16 8	14 8	11 0	10 8	12 0
May	11 0	11 0	14 0	13 0	11 0	11 0	12 0

In this month grain sold dearer than in the previous month.

(7) *Importation of grain.*—The same as reported before.

(8) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—No change.

(9) *Change in rates of wages.*—No change.

(10) *Emigration.*—None are reported to have emigrated.

(11) *Other matters necessary for the information of the Darbar.*—Water has dried up in ponds. It is taken from wells. Fodder is insufficient, as enough *bhusa* was not produced in rabi harvest. In some places green leaves, &c., of trees like *dho* are given to cattle for eating, and this has emaciated them.

No. 195.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2,839–F., dated Abu, the 15th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2,506–F., dated the 15th June, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Bharatpur State for the month of June, 1900, together with the covering letter of the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, No. 3,263, dated the 4th July, 1900.

* Not printed.

2. From the marginal table which gives the statistics for the past eight months it will be seen that the decline of relief workers which began in May has continued. The numbers fell during the month under review by nearly 16 per cent. The tendency is for the cultivating classes to leave the works for their fields. The percentage of labourers employed on a strictly famine wage is only 33 compared with 36 in May and 46 in April. Even the contract workers have begun to leave the works.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
1899.				
November ...	8,000	700	8,700	1·36
December ...	12,298	973	13,271	2·07
1900.				
January ...	10,288	1,332	11,620	1·81
February ...	10,816	943	11,759	1·84
March	8,546	1,019	9,565	1·50
April	12,341	1,007	13,348	2·09
May	11,508	1,209	12,717	1·99
June	9,688	806	10,494	1·60

The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have fallen by one third to the lowest total recorded since December last. In the monthly famine report the number of persons in poor-houses is returned at 806, but the appended remarks furnish the following details.

—	Number.
Outlying poor-houses	210
Bharatpur poor-house	442
Relieved by spinning	154
Total	806

The decrease is confined almost entirely to the Bharatpur Poor-house, where the numbers have fallen by more than half.

4. The general condition of the people of the State and at all relief centres is good, but distress among the cattle has increased. The Political Agent reports that many of the animals not actually used for domestic or field purposes have died from want of food. There are no complaints of scarcity of water and the recent heavy rain must have partially filled the tanks and raised the water level in the wells.

Enclosure in No. 195.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. Herbert, Political Agent, Eastern States, Rajputana, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Abu, No. 3,263, *dated Bharatpur Agency, the 4th July*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the monthly Famine Statement and the report under sections 15 and 16 of the Abstract Famine Code received from the Bharatpur State Council for the month of June, 1900.

2. I would add that there has been considerable mortality lately, I hear, among the village cattle though the plough cattle are in fairly good case.

3. Two copies of the skeleton maps are attached herewith.

Annexure.

Remarks by Sohan Lal Rai Bahadur, Member and Secretary, State Council, Bharatpur.

(1) *Private relief.*—The same as reported before.

(2) *Village and poor-house relief.*—There are three poor-houses maintained by contributions from temples and local subscriptions. The income and expenditure up to the end of June, 1900, are shown below :—

Poor-houses.	Contributions from temples.	Local subscriptions.	Total income.	Expenditure.	Balance.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Dig	528 14 6	208 6 0	737 4 6	713 13 11	23 6 7
Weir	528 14 6	131 0 0	659 14 6	616 10 0	43 4 6
Kama	528 14 6	1,091 8 2	1,620 6 8	1,245 10 11	374 11 9
Total	1,586 11 6	1,430 14 2	3,017 9 8	2,576 2 10	441 6 10

The number of persons in poor-houses was 210 on the 30th June, 1900.

Rs. 2,000 were sanctioned for maintenance of pardanashin women requiring relief. They are given Rs. 0-1-3 each per day. The account showing money allotted and spent and balance is given below :—

Serial number.	Tahsil.	Allotment.	Expenditure up to 30th June.	Balance.	Number of females relieved.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Bharatpur	20 0 0	10 7 0	9 9 0	6
2	Dig	28 0 0	2 13 0	25 3 0	6
3	Kama	107 0 0	60 2 3	46 13 9	25
4	Kumher	51 5 0	15 10 6	35 10 6	9
5	Rupbas	86 0 0	47 9 9	38 6 3	15
6	Biana	133 9 6	45 12 3	87 13 3	19
7	Akhegarh	24 0 0	10 4 6	13 11 6	4
8	Uchain	273 0 0	92 14 3	180 1 9	45
9	Nagar	110 0 0	23 4 6	86 11 6	10
10	Bhusawar	28 0 0	21 14 0	6 2 0	10
11	Bharatpur City	512 0 0	347 10 9	164 5 3	5
	Total	1,372 14 6	678 6 9	694 7 9	154

Spinning work is taken from these women. Bharatpur poor-house is maintained by public donations, young persons are given 15⅓ chittacks, and boys 5½ chittacks each. The total monthly cost is Rs. 671-1-9 and the number of inmates is 442.

(*b*) Cooked food is given to the inmates.

(*c*) There is no sickness in poor-houses.

(*d*) The scale of rations allowed to inmates is the same as reported before.

(3) *General character of relief works.*—All relief works are under the Public Works Department. Number of persons on relief works is 9,688. The total cost for this month is Rs. 39,688. The number of persons paid on contract system and at rates higher than famine rates is 6,513. The decrease in number is due to the fact that many men have most probably gone to till their lands.

The scale of rations in chittacks, or in case of cash the amount and the grain equivalent.—The same as previously reported.

(4) *Physical condition.*—Generally good.

(5) *Death, if any, from starvation.*—None.

(6) *Food-stocks.*—The same as reported before.

Grain rates are given below :—

——	Wheat.	Gram.	Barley.	Bejhar.	Jwar.	Bajra.	Gojra.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
In May ...	11 0 0	11 0 0	14 0 0	13 0 0	11 0 0	11 0 0	12 0 0
In June ...	11 3 0	11 0 0	14 0 0	13 3 0	9 0 0	8 0 0	12 0 0

There is not much difference.

(7) *Importation of grain.*—The same as reported before.

(8) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—No change. Rain is badly wanted.

(9) *Change in rates of wages.*—No change.

(10) *Emigration.*—None are reported to have emigrated.

(11) *Other matters necessary for the information of the Durbar.*—The same as reported before.

No. 196.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3105-F., dated Abu, the 15th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2839-F., dated the 15th July, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statement* of the Bharatpur State for the month of July, 1900, together with the covering letter of the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, No. 3939, dated the 7th August, 1900.

2. The marginal table gives the numbers in receipt of relief during the last nine months. The workers have fallen off by more than one-third, the total for July being less than any previously recorded since relief operations began in November. The State received good rain from the 8th to 11th July, causing a general exodus from the works. Towards the end of the subsequent break some people began to return, but the second burst of rainfall at the end of the month checked this tendency. The contract labourers left in the largest proportion.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage on Population.
1899.				
November ..	8,000	700	8,700	1·36
December ...	12,298	973	13,271	2·07
1900.				
January ...	10,288	1,332	11,620	1·81
February ...	10,816	943	11,759	1·84
March ...	8,546	1,019	9,565	1·50
April	12,341	1,007	13,348	2·09
May	11,508	1,209	12,717	1·99
June	9,688	806	10,494	1·60
July	6,185	589	6,774	1·06

* Not printed.

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have fallen by one quarter to the lowest total on record. The numbers relieved by the different institutions during the last two months are as follows :—

—	June.	July.
Outlying poor-houses	210	203
Bharatpur poor-house	442	177
Spinning and weaving	154	209
Total	806	589

The decrease has taken place only in the Bharatpur poor-house. The majority of the inmates of this institution have throughout been aliens.

4. Prices rose during the month, but will probably fall slightly during August. The condition of the people is good, but nothing is said as to the cattle. The second advance of the monsoon gave good rain, but it was partial, and more is urgently wanted in the northern tahsils of Pahari and Nagar. The State grass preserves also are by no means flourishing.

Enclosure in No. 196.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. Herbert, Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 3939, dated Bharatpur Agency, the 7th August, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the monthly famine statement, and the report under sections 15 and 16 of the Abstract Famine Code, received from the Bharatpur State Council for the month of July, 1900.

2. Two copies of the skeleton maps are attached herewith.

Annexure.

Remarks by Sohan Lal, Member and Secretary, State Council, Bharatpur, dated Bharatpur, the 4th August, 1900.

(1.) *Private relief.*—Nil. His Highness the Maharaja stopped giving alms on the 29th June, 1900.

(2.) *Village and poor-house relief.*—There are three poor-houses, as reported previously. The expenditure in this month was Rs. 743-3-0. The number of inmates on the last day was 203. The number of "pardanashin" women who got relief was 209 in all tehsils, and the expenditure incurred up to the 28th July was Rs. 1,342-3-6. The number of inmates of the Bharatpur poor-house is 177. (*b.*) Cooked food is given to inmates. (*c.*) There is no sickness in poor-houses. (*d.*) The scale of rations allowed to inmates is the same as reported before.

(3.) *General condition of relief.*—The number on relief works is 6,185. The cost of relief works for July is 24,077. The number of persons paid on contract system, and at rates higher than famine rates, 2,940. The decrease in number is due to the fact that many men have gone to work on their fields. The scale of rations in chittacks, or in case of cash, the amount and the grain equivalent, the same as reported before.

(4.) *Physical condition.*—Generally good.

(5.) *Death, if any, from starvation.*—The Uchain Tehsil reported that two persons died of starvation.

(6.) *Fodder stocks.*—The same as reported before.

Grain rates are given below in seers and chittacks :—

——	Wheat.	Gram.	Barley.	Bejhar.	Jwar.	Bajra.	Gojra.
	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.
By the end of June	11 3	11 0	14 0	13 3	9 0	8 0	12 0
By the end of July	11 0	10 8	13 8	13 0	6 0	8 0	12 0

In July rates were higher.

(7.) *Importation of grain.*—The same as reported before.

(8.) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Rains have set in and no damage has been caused.

(9.) *Change in rates of wages.*—No change.

(10.) *Emigration.*—None are reported to have emigrated.

(11.) *Other matters necessary for the information of the Darbar.*—Water is now available in ponds for animals, on account of rainfall ; grass is growing up.

No. 197.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3299 *F., dated Abu, the* 15*th September*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 3105 F., dated 15th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Bharatpur State for the month of August, 1900, together with the covering letter from the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, No. 4516, dated 7th September, 1900.

2. The marginal table gives the numbers on relief during the last ten months. The decrease in the number of workers noted last month has been maintained. The total by the end of August had fallen by nearly one-third, and was the lowest on record. The report contains no explanation of the reason why there are still so many applicants for relief on works, while the numbers supported gratuitously are so insignificant, and the general condition and the prospects of the country and of the people are so favourable. It is hard to reconcile paragraph (h) of the report with the presence of over 4,000 people on the works.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
November ..	8,000	700	8,700	1·36
December ...	12,289	973	13,271	2·07
1900.				
January ...	10,288	1,332	11,620	1·81
February ...	10,816	943	11,759	1·84
March	8,546	1,019	9,565	1·50
April	12,341	1,007	13,348	2·09
May	11,508	1,209	12,717	1·99
June	9,688	806	10,494	1·60
July	6,185	589	6,774	1·06
August	4,384	135	4,519	0·70

3. Ample and general rain was received during the closing days of August and the first week in September, and the agricultural situation is satisfactory.

* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 197.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. Herbert, Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 4516, *dated Bharatpur, the 7th September*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith copies of the Monthly Famine Statement and the Report under sections 15 and 16 of the Abstract Famine Code for Native States, just received from the Bharatpur State Council for the month of August, 1900.

2. Two copies of the maps are attached herewith.

Annexure.

Remarks by Sohan Lal, Member and Secretary, State Council, Bharatpur, dated the 6th September, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—Nil.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—There were three poor-houses as previously reported. They were maintained by contributions from temples and local subscriptions.

(*a*) The number of inmates on the last date was 51, and the cost for August amounted to Rs. 299-9-2½.

The number of *pardah nashin* women who get relief was 84, and the expenditure incurred in giving relief during August was Rs. 431-7-0.

Grant of gratuitous relief to destitute persons in poor-houses and to *pardah nashin* women has been discontinued from 1st September, 1900.

(*b*) Cooked food was given to inmates.

(*c*) There was no sickness in poor-houses.

(*d*) The scale of rations allowed to inmates was the same as before.

3. *General conditions of relief.*—The number on relief works was 4,384.

The cost of relief works for August was Rs. 14,827.

The number of persons paid on contract system and at rates higher than famine wages 814.

The scale of rations in chittacks or in case of cash the amount and the grain equivalent.—The same as reported before.

4. *Physical condition.*—Generally good.

5. *Death, if any, from starvation.*—None.

6. *Fodder stocks.*—The same as reported before.

Grain rates are given below in seers and chittacks for the month under report and the previous one :—

——	Wheat.	Gram.	Barley.	Bejhar.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Gojra.
	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.	S. ch.
By the end of July	11 0	10 8	13 8	13 0	6 0	8 0	12 0
By the end of August... ...	11 8	11 4	15 4	13 8	9 0	10 5	12 8

Grain was comparatively cheaper during the month under report.

7. *Importation of grain.*—The same as reported before.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The same as reported before.

9. *Change in rates of wages.*—No change.

10. *Emigration.*—None were reported to have emigrated.

11. *Other matters necessary for the information of the Darbar.*—Fodder and water are sufficient. The area affected by famine has been reduced as much as the effect has disappeared.

No. 198.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department; No. 2205 F., dated Abu, the 18th May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1928 F., dated the 25th April, 1900,* I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements† of the Banswara and Partabgarh States and of the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of April, 1900, together with the covering letters of the Resident and Assistant Resident.

2. *Banswara.*—The following table shows the numbers on works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in Banswara during the last six months :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage of Population.
November, 1899	191	50	211	·09
December „	432	78	510	·24
January, 1900	576	100	676	·31
February „	1,565	237	1,602	·75
March „	3,764	410	4,174	1·97
April „	4,103	565	4,668	2·21

The total on works has risen by 9 per cent. during the month, and Lieutenant Drummond's remarks would seem to imply that additional works have been opened. The works consist of tanks, wells and buildings, and from the Darbar's remarks it would appear that a certain section of the population maintain themselves by the collection and sale of jungle products. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have gone up by 38 per cent., but no description is given of its character. Those who are not inmates of the poor-house in the city are probably relieved by daily doles of grain.

3. For the first time the people are reported as being affected in their physical condition by the famine. Nothing is said about the cattle. The account of the harvest is very meagre, but the total yield cannot have been at all large. Grain-stocks are said to be insufficient. I have already asked the Resident to organise a regular transport service from Mandsaur *viâ* Partabgarh. If necessary, the military authorities will be asked to lend animals.

4. *Partabgarh.*—The following table gives the numbers on relief in this State since December, 1899 :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage of Population.
December, 1899	1,982	35	2,017	2·29
January, 1900	2,248	73	2,321	2·63
February „	1,815	108	1,923	2·24
March „	2,188	159	2,347	2·71
April „	4,051	219	4,270	4·85

* See page 488 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

The increase of 85 per cent. in workers is much more marked than in Banswara, in spite of a temporary reduction owing to cholera on the Deolia tank. More than half the workers on this project went to their homes or joined other works. The Sagthali tank, which was begun during the month, has the largest number of workers. Of the total on works, 1,000 are said to be engaged in sinking wells, but in the remarks appended to the statement it is noted that more than double that number are employed in these operations. The balance are probably sinking or deepening wells with the help of recoverable loans.

5. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have increased by one-quarter. These are all accommodated in one or other of the three poor-houses. The wealthier bankers are reported as relieving about 500 persons a day by the distribution of small grain doles.

6. No account has been given of the results of the harvest; but, as the railway is fairly accessible, dealers are freely importing grain, and there is, I think, no fear of the supply running short. The Resident and Assistant Resident both certify that the Darbar are making a genuine effort to relieve distress, and from my knowledge of the Maharawat I believe this to be true. No accounts have been given this month of the condition of the people or the cattle, but the deaths among "beggars," presumably due to insufficient food, are said to have decreased.

7. *Kushalgarh.*—The numbers on relief in this small Chiefship since November are given below :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage of Population.
November, 1899	425	300	725	2·33
December „	400	300	700	2·25
January, 1900	250	300	550	1·77
February „	300	250	550	1·77
March „	275	270	545	1·75
April „	275	270	545	1·75

No change in the numbers on relief works has been reported, but the statistics are not of much value. The description of the condition of the people given in the remarks is not very clear, considering the reports of the previous three months on the same subject.

8. Since the submission of the last reports a Special Famine Officer has been appointed, and Lieutenant Patterson has already joined. His reports of the condition of affairs as seen on the spot will be awaited with interest. The Darbar's account of Banswara, on which Lieutenant Drummond's report is based, is unreliable and must be accepted with caution.

Enclosure in No. 198.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident in Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1080, *dated Udaipur, the* 10*th May*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter No. 1166, dated 8th May, 1900, with enclosures, from the Assistant Resident in Mewar, submitting the Famine Statements for the States of Banswara, Partabgarh, and the Chiefship of Kushalgarh for the month of April, 1900.

2. The Assistant Resident observes that he has no personal knowledge of the situation in these States, but he considers that the Partabgarh Darbar are making a genuine effort to cope with the famine and provide adequate relief.

3. This uncertainty about the actual condition of things, especially in Banswara, will, I trust, now be shortly dispelled and some light thrown on the situation by Lieutenant Patterson, who has lately been appointed on famine duty in these States and will proceed to Partabgarh and Banswara in a day or two.

Annexure I.

Letter from Lieutenant A. B. Drummond, Assistant Resident in Mewar, to the Resident in Mewar, No. 1166, *dated, the* 8*th May*, 1900,

I have the honour to forward the Monthly Famine Statements with maps in triplicate relating to the States of Banswara and Partabgarh and the Chiefship of Kushalgarh.

2. The numbers on relief works given by the respective Darbars are as shown below :—

——	February.	March.	April.
Banswara	1,565	3,764	4,103
Partabgarh	1,815	2,188	4,051
Kushalgarh	300	275	275

The increase in numbers in Banswara is slight, though from the Statement for March it would appear that a considerable number of additional works have been started ; in Partabgarh the increase is considerable and is probably due to the opening to famine relief work of the Sagthali tank and a number of petty works. The figures from Kushalgarh call for no particular comment. I am not in a position to offer any comments on the information given by the Darbars concerned, as, owing to my presence in Dungarpur in the present state of affairs being absolutely necessary, I had no opportunity of personally inspecting the famine relief operations in the other States under my charge. The Partabgarh Darbar are making a genuine effort to cope with the famine and to provide adequate relief, but I am unable to comment on the figures given by the Banswara Darbar. The Kushalgarh Chiefship is less affected than either of the above States, owing to the grass crop affording an opportunity to the Bhils there of earning a livelihood. The information called for in the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General's letter No. 1354 F. of 21st of March has not been furnished by the Kushalgarh and Partabgarh Darbars, though they were instructed by my predecessor to include the information in their reports. Their attention will again be drawn to this matter. It would undoubtedly be most beneficial if a Special Famine Officer could be deputed to superintend famine relief measures in Banswara and Partabgarh, especially in the former State, and I believe the Darbars concerned would co-operate freely, and in any case I am sure that the Partabgarh Darbar would welcome any such assistance.

Annexure II.

Remarks by Lieutenant A. B. Drummond, Assistant Resident in Mewar, to accompany the Famine Statement of the State of Banswara for the month ending the 30*th April*, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—In the town 20 buildings are being erected ; one tank and a well are being deepened. In the district 127 wells, 11 baoris, and 12 tanks are being deepened. Nineteen buildings, five thanas, one school, one ghata and a temple are being repaired.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—The poor maintain themselves by selling grass, fuel, wood and other forest products and on relief works and charity.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—Tanks and wells.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people is being affected.

(e) *Death (if any) from starvation.*—None.

(f) *Food-stock.*—The quantity of grain in stock is said to be half of the quantity required.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Grain is being imported.

(h) *General conditions and prospects of affected area.*—Whole area is affected. Cultivation is reported to be four annas in a rupee in some places.

(i) *Changes in rates of wages.*—No change reported.

(j) *Emigration or immigration.*—Both to a certain extent.

(k) *Other matters.*—None.

NOTE.

I.—Male labourers get 1 anna Imperial which can procure 12 chittacks, or 24 ozs. of grain.

Female labourers get ¾ anna Imperial which can procure 9 chittacks, or 18 ozs. of grain.

Boy or girl gets ½ anna Imperial which can procure 6 chittacks, or 12 ozs. of grain.

II.—Workers are not paid on a contract system.

Annexure III.

Remarks by Lieutenant A. B. Drummond, Assistant Resident in Mewar, to accompany the Famine Statement of the State of Partabgarh for the month ending the 30th April, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—In the town of Partabgarh and in Arnod some Sahukars distribute a handful of parched grain, jowar and makki; about 500 persons are relieved in this way. About 2,200 persons are employed on wells in the districts.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Poor-houses are located at Partabgarh, Sagthali and Dalote. The inmates number 219.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—In the district new wells are being sunk and old ones are being repaired and deepened. Tanks at Deogarh, Dalote, Ghutarsi and Sagthali are being deepened.

(d) *Physical condition of the people.*—Physical condition not bad.

(e) *Death (if any) from starvation.*—Forty-three deaths among beggars were reported during the month.

(f) *Food-stock.*—Grain is being imported in a sufficient quantity.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Grain is being imported by Sahukars and grain dealers.

(h) *General conditions and prospects of affected area.*—The poor are employed on relief works and the number is increasing. Wells will be sunk in every village.

(i) *Changes in rates of wages.*—Grain is given to the labourers instead of money, and it is given in the following scale :—

—	Chittacks.
Male	12
Female...	10
Boy or girl	6

(j) *Emigration or immigration.*—Emigrations none.

(k) *Other matters.*—None.

Annexure IV.

Remarks by Lieutenant A. B. Drummond, Assistant Resident in Mewar, to accompany the Famine Statement of the Chiefship of Kushalgarh for the month ending 30th April, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—None.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Cooked food is distributed in the poor-house at Kushalgarh.

(*c*) *General character of relief works.*—Wells and buildings.

(*d*) *Physical condition of the people.*—Is being slightly affected now.

(*e*) *Death (if any) from starvation.*—Some have died through starvation (number not given).

(*f*) *Food-stock.*—Not sufficient.

(*g*) *Importaion of grain.*—Grain is being imported.

(*h*) *General conditions and prospects of affected area.*—General condition not good, and will remain so till the coming of rains.

(*i*) *Changes in rates of wages.*—None.

(*j*) *Emigration or immigration.*—Both are prohibited, but do take place to same extent.

(*k*) *Other matters.*—None.

No. 199.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2494-F., dated Abu, the 15th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2205-F., dated 18th May, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements* of the Banswara and Pertabgarh States and of the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of May, 1900, together with the covering letters† of the Resident and Assistant Resident.

†No. 1338, dated the 4th June, 1900.
No. dated the 31st May, 1900.

2. The following table shows the number on work and in receipt of gratuitous relief in Banswara during the last seven months.

BANSWARA.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
November, 1899	191	50	211	·09
December „	432	78	510	·24
January, 1900	576	100	676	·31
February „	1,565	237	1,602	·75
March „	3,764	410	4,174	1·97
April „	4,103	565	4,668	2·21
May „	4,743	765	5,508	2·61

The total on works has risen by 15 per cent. The works are all tanks and wells, but Lieutenant Patterson confirms the Darbar's report of last month as to the benefit the people have derived from the collection and sale of jungle products. All the forests have been thrown open to the Bhils, who find ready markets for wood and grass in Pertabgarh, Banswara, and the stations on the railway which are accessible to them. Mr. Patterson began his inspections in Banswara in the middle of May. He found, as was only to be expected in the absence of European supervision, that a good deal of peculation had been going

*Not printed.

on, and he had to reorganise the works. Wages were raised, a proper system of accounts introduced, and daily payments insisted upon. The good result of these measures is evident from the rise in numbers on the works in spite of the cholera, which was at its worst during Lieutenant Patterson's tour. The disease was of the same virulent type as in the rest of the hilly tracts.

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief have risen by 35 per cent., but as in the case of the workers, the increase has been really greater, as a certain proportion of the units recorded in previous returns existed only on paper. The kitchens and the central poor-house were found by Lieutenant Patterson to be hot-beds of cholera. They were thoroughly disinfected and all refuse was burnt. Mr. Patterson found that a philanthropic Parsee gentleman of Bombay had sent an agent into Banswara to make free distribution of grain. The agent had been much hampered in various ways, but with the help of the Assistant Resident a systematic distribution has now been organised. It is satisfactory to read that the Darbar are making genuine efforts to mitigate distress, and that lists are being prepared with a view to the issue of takavi advances. Cattle in the hills appear to be plentiful and to be in fairly good condition, owing to the available pasture. I have to thank the Bombay Military Authorities for their offer to lend mule transport to assist the grain traffic. I did not, however, avail myself of it because the Resident and Assistant Resident stated that local transport arrangements could be made, which would have the additional advantage of keeping a large number of agricultural cattle alive. There need be now no further anxiety regarding a sufficiency of grain supplies during the rains. The statement of the former Assistant Resident, Captain Peacock, that it was impossible to effect any decrease in crime until the ripening of the kharif harvest, has been entirely disproved in Banswara. The measures adopted on Colonel Thornton's initiative have been attended with much success. A large number of the worst Bhil offenders have been captured, and the whole State is now quiet.

4. The following table gives the numbers on relief in this State since December, 1899 :—

PERTABGARH.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
December, 1899	1,982	35	2,017	2·29
January, 1900	2,248	73	2,321	2·63
February „	1,815	108	1,923	2·24
March „	2,188	159	2,347	2·71
April „	4,051	219	4,270	4·85
May „	4,020	528	4,548	5·16

A very slight decrease during May is reported among the workers. Lieutenant Patterson arrived on the 4th of May and spent the first fortnight on tour in the districts. He found the organisation on all the works quite satisfactory. Payments are made every day, the accounts are in good order, and there is some attempt to enforce sanitation. About five-sixths of the workers are employed on four large tanks, while the remainder are engaged in sinking and restoring wells.

The Darbar, have, moreover, persuaded some of the larger jagirdars to open works on their estates, which afforded employment to approximately 1,500 persons.

The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have more than doubled, owing chiefly to the extension of poor-houses and increased attendance at the hospitals.

Relief measures are both adequate and effective, and this success is largely due to the keen personal interest taken in all branches of famine administration by His Highness the Maharawat.

5. Cholera has also ravaged Pertabgarh, but, owing to better management on the part of the Darbar the mortality has been less than in Banswara. The condition of the people is on the whole fair, and the accounts of the cattle are as encouraging as those from Banswara. There is no anxiety about grain.

6. The numbers on relief in the chiefship since November are given below.

KUSHALGARH.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
November, 1899	425	300	725	2·33
December „	400	300	700	2·25
January, 1900	250	300	550	1·77
February „	300	250	550	1·77
March „	275	270	545	1·75
April „	275	270	545	1·75
May „	295	280	575	1·85

There has been very little change since April. The workers are chiefly employed in the construction of new buildings, which indirectly afford relief to large numbers of Bhils who bring in materials from the jungles. Many others make a livelihood by the collection and sale of wood and grass. A good mango crop was unfortunately spoilt by the monkeys. There is sufficient grain, and fodder is plentiful. The Chief continues to do well.

Enclosure 1 in No. 199.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Abu, No. 1338, *dated Udaipur, the 4th June,* 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Famine Statements and the Narrative Famine Report for the States of Banswara and Pertabgarh and the Chiefship of Kushalgarh for the month of May, 1900, received from the Assistant Resident for Banswara and Pertabgarh.

2. A further detailed report from myself on the condition of relief measures in Banswara and Pertabgarh will be forwarded shortly, based on information collected during my recent tour in those States.

Enclosure 2 in No. 199.

Letter from Lieutenant S. B. Patterson, Assistant Resident, Banswara, to the Resident in Mewar, dated Banswara, the 31st May, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith Famine Statements for the month of May for the States of Banswara and Pertabgarh and the Chiefship of Kushalgarh. I also forward a Narrative Diary for the month.

2. I have no records to show how many persons were in receipt of relief during the months of April and May. I am, therefore, unable to comment on a rise or fall in numbers. The numbers on the works are, however, now increasing, and this increase should continue till the rains break.

3. No deaths have been reported as being due to starvation. It is difficult to say whether such deaths have or have not occurred. Cholera of a virulent type has been raging through the three States, and it has been impossible, in this weather, to tell from the state of the corpse the cause from which the person died. That is in the case of bodies found lying about, of which I have come across a few.

4. I am forwarding, under a separate cover, an application for the sum of Rs. 15,000, on behalf of the Banswara State, from the Calcutta Indian Famine Relief Fund Committee. I have also explained the objects of this relief fund to the Chief of Kushalgarh, and expect an application for an amount from him shortly.

Annexure I.

Remarks by Lieutenant S. B. Patterson, Assistant Resident, to accompany the Famine Report (Banswara) for month ending 31st May, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Poor people are fed by sahukars. Mr. Adamjee Peerbhoy of Bombay is distributing a large quantity of grain in the State.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Central poor-house in Banswara. Kitchens at Bongra, Hulinger and Pipalkunt.

(c) *Character of works.*—Tanks and wells.

(d) *Physical condition of people.*—Poor.

(e) *Death from starvation (if any).*—None reported.

(f) *Food stock.*—Over four-fifths of required quantity is now in the State.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Balance required is being imported and is coming into the State in large quantities.

(h) *Condition and prospects.*—Condition unchanged.

(i) *Changes in wages.*—Men's wages increased to three annas. Women and children in proportion.

(j) *Emigration or immigration.*—None reported. Many deaths from cholera.

(k) *Other matters.*—Cattle in jungle tracts in fair condition. In other tracts poor. Fodder supply in jungle tracts fair.

Annexure II.

Remarks by Lieutenant S. B. Patterson, Assistant Resident, to accompany Famine Statement (Pertabgarh) for month ending 31st May, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—Two thousand persons are employed on wells and buildings. I saw many of these works while in the State.

(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—Poor-houses are located at Pertabgarh and Dalote.

(c) *General character of relief works.*—Tanks and wells.

(d) *Physical condition of people.*—Fair.

(e) *Death from starvation.*—None reported.

(f) *Food stock.*—Sufficient.

(g) *Importation of grain.*—Grain is being imported as required.

(h) *General condition and prospects.*—

(i) *Change in rates of wages.*—None.

(j) *Emigration and immigration.*—None reported.

(k) *Other matters.*—Cattle are in poor condition in plains and in fair condition in jungle tracts. A fair supply of fodder remains in the jungle tracts. Many deaths from cholera have taken place during the month.

Annexure III.

Remarks by Lieutenant S. B. Patterson, Assistant Resident, to accompany Famine Statement (Kushalgarh) for month ending 31st May, 1900.

(a) *Private relief.*—A few sahukars distribute grain.
(b) *Village and poor-house relief.*—A poor-house in Kushalgarh.
(c) *General character of relief works.*—Buildings and wells.
(d) *Physical condition of people.*—Poor.
(e) *Death (if any) from starvation.*—None reported.
(f) *Food stock.*—Nearly sufficient.
(g) *Importation of grain.*—Grain required is fast being imported.
(h) *General condition and prospects.*—Unaltered.
(i) *Change in wages.*—None.
(j) *Emigration or immigration.*—None reported.
(k) *Other matters.*—Condition of cattle is fair. Cholera has been raging during the month.

No. 200.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2841 F., dated Abu, the 15th July, 1900.

1. In continuation of my letter No. 2494 F., dated the 15th June, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements* of the Banswara and Pertabgarh States, and of the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of June, 1900, together with the Assistant Resident's covering letter No. 75, dated 5th July 1900. The statements have come direct from the Assistant Resident, and I have not been able to send them to the Resident for remarks because of the delay thus involved.

2. The following table gives the numbers on relief in Banswara during the last nine months :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November, 1899	191	50	211	·9
December „	432	78	510	·24
January, 1900	576	100	767	·31
February „	1,656	237	1,602	·75
March „	3,764	410	4,174	·97
April „	4,103	565	4,668	2·21
May „	4,743	765	5,508	2·61
June „	5,525	984	6,509	3·07

The workers have risen by 16 per cent. during June. Cholera has entirely disappeared and the Assistant Resident was able to expand the works. The new organisation is working well and has successfully stood the strain of the recent epidemic. The subordinate staff is still both weak and inefficient, but the Kamdar has loyally co-operated with Lieutenant Patterson. No large projects have been undertaken, and there is little fear of the rains doing any damage to an unfinished tank. The Bhils in the jungle tracts have continued to make a living by the sale of forest produce, but this source of labour is almost exhausted.

* Not printed.

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have risen by nearly one-third. The large central poorhouse at the capital and the kitchens at selected centres are all working well, and relief is really reaching the people. Crime has been reduced to normal proportions, and the serious punitive measures employed in Dungarpur for the suppression of dacoit hands have not been found necessary. In consequence of complaints that raids were being made into the Panch Mahals country by the Chilkari Bhils in the extreme south, the police force has been strengthened and a relief work has been opened at Chilkari itself. The Assistant Resident has made a complete tour of the State and reports that previous estimates of the mortality have been exaggerated. This will, however, probably form the subject of a separate report.

The cattle appear to be deteriorating, even in the hilly tracts, more rapidly than during the previous famine months, but if good rain falls soon they will recover. Grain is still being freely imported. and both the State and the Banniahs have given comparatively liberal assistance to cultivators in the shape of advances.

4. The relief statistics of the Pertabgarh State for the last eight months are brought together below :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
December, 1899	1,982	35	2,017	2·29
January, 1900	2,248	73	2,321	2·63
February „	1,815	108	1,923	2·24
March „	2,188	159	2,347	2·71
April „	4,051	219	4,270	4·85
May „	4,020	528	4,548	5·16
June „	4,265	516	4,781	5·43

There has been a slight rise in the numbers on works. Four targe tanks are approaching completion and should be ready before heavy rain comes. There has been little fluctuation in the returns of gratuitous relief. The figures do not include a large number of people who are relieved by private charity, but represent only the inmates of the poorhouses.

Cholera has entirely disappeared and the general condition of the people is good. The cattle, however, are rapidly falling off in condition and the fodder supply is dangerously short. The import of grain continues unchecked.

5. The numbers on relief in the small Chiefship of Kushalgarh are given below :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November, 1899	425	300	725	2·33
December „	400	300	700	2·25
January, 1900	250	300	550	1·77
February „	300	250	550	1·77
March „	275	270	545	1·75
April „	275	270	545	1·75
May „	295	280	575	1·85
June „	295	270	565	1·85

There has been practically no change in the administration of famine relief or in the general situation except that, as elsewhere, the cattle are feeling keenly the effects of the prolonged drought.

Enclosure in No. 200.

Letter from Lieutenant S. B. Patterson, Assistant Resident, Banswara and Partabgarh, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Abu, No. 75, dated Partabgarh, the 5th July, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith the monthly Famine Statement*, with a report of the States of Banswara and Partabgarh and the Chiefship of Kushalgarh, for the month ending 30th June, 1900.

Annexure.

Remarks by Lieutenant S. B. Patterson, Assistant Resident, to accompany Famine Statement of States of Banswara and Partabgarh and the Chiefship of Kushalgarh, for month ending 30th June, 1900.

(*a*) *Private relief.*)—None shown from Banswara, but I should judge that some 1,000 persons obtain private relief. In Partabgarh the numbers receiving private relief are 1,500.

(*b*) *Village and poorhouse relief.*—Poorhouses are established in the capitals and kitchens in central villages. Many make a livelihood by the sale of fodder, but this is only obtainable in jungle tracts and is now very scarce there.

(*c*) *General character of works.*—Tanks, wells, and buildings.

(*d*) Poor in all States, but best in Partabgarh.

(*e*) *Death from starvation.*—None.

(*f*) Sufficient grain is in all States.

(*g*) Grain is being imported.

(*h*) *Conditions are unchanged.*—No rain has fallen and prospects are undoubtedly gloomy.

(*i*) No change in rates.

(*j*) No emigration or immigrations reported.

(*k*) The condition of cattle in all States is now very poor, but least so in Banswara, where, owing to the jungle, there is more fodder. The supply of fodder is, however, greatly diminished, and it is now difficult to obtain. Great anxiety is felt in Banswara with regard to the recently imported cattle from Malwa. Cholera has disappeared from all States.

No. 201.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3122-F., dated Abu, the 17th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2841-F., dated the 15th July, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statements* of the Banswara and Pertabgarh States and of the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of July, 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter dated the 8th August 1900.

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* Not printed.

2. The following table gives the numbers on relief in Banswara during the last nine months :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
November, 1899	161	50	211	·9
December „	432	78	510	·24
January, 1900	576	100	676	·31
February „	1,565	237	1,802	·85
March „	3,764	410	4,174	1·97
April „	4,103	565	4,668	2·21
May „	4,743	765	5,508	2·61
June „	5,525	984	6,509	3·07
July „	2,521	884	3,405	1·61

The workers have fallen by over one-half. The Assistant Resident reports that the fall would have been even more marked but for the fact that the statistics were necessarily compiled a few days before the close of the month. The work opened at Chilkari to stop the raiding across the border and accommodate the Bhils who had been brought back from the Panch Mahals, has proved very useful. The numbers on gratuitous relief have fallen by only ten per cent. Good rain has fallen all over the State.

3. The relief statistics of the Pertabgarh State are brought together below :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
December, 1899	1,982	35	2,017	2·29
January, 1900	2,248	73	2,321	2·63
February „	1,815	108	1,923	2·24
March „	2,188	159	2,347	2·71
April „	4,051	219	4,270	4·85
May „	4,020	528	4,548	5·16
June „	4,265	516	4,781	5·43
July „	757	424	1,181	1·34

The numbers on works have decreased by over four-fifths, the total being the lowest on record since operations began in December, 1899. The gratuitous lists have shrunk by only 17 per cent.

4. The following table shows the fluctuations in numbers on relief in Kushalgarh during the last nine months :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
November, 1899	425	300	725	2·33
December , ...	400	300	700	2·25
January, 1900	250	300	550	1·77
February „	300	250	550	1·77

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
March 1900	275	270	545	1·75
April „	275	270	545	1·75
May „	295	280	575	1·85
June „	295	270	565	1·85
July „	—	233	233	·45

The works have been closed entirely, and by the end of the month even gratuitous relief will be reduced to very narrow limits.

5. Good rain has fallen all over Banswara, Pertabgarh and Kushalgarh, and the people are busy in their fields. The tanks are not yet full, but are filling fast. The condition of the people is said to be improving in Pertabgarh, and this is doubtless the case in Banswara and Kushalgarh also. Grazing is available everywhere, so the cattle must be picking up strength. Takkavi loans have been given out and gifts from the charitable funds are being distributed. No details are furnished of the number of bullocks which are being imported. The cattle mortality was never so heavy as in Mewar and the hilly tracts.

Enclosure in No. 201.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 2072, *dated Udaipur, the 8th August,* 1900.

I have the honour to forward the famine statements of the Banswara and Pertabgarh States and of the Chiefship of Kushalgarh for the month of July, 1900.

2. The number of persons on relief works at the end of the month show a decrease of 3,004 in Banswara, 3,508 in Pertabgarh, and 270 in Kushalgarh, while the number in receipt of gratuitous relief show an increase of 70 in Banswara and a decrease of 92 and 42 in Pertabgarh and Kushalgarh, respectively, as compared with the figures for the preceding month.

3. Good rain is reported to have fallen throughout Banswara, Pertabgarh and Kushalgarh, and there should be no necessity for further relief works after the end of August.

Annexure.

Remarks by Lieutenant S. B. Patterson, Assistant Resident, Banswara and Pertabgarh, to accompany monthly Famine Statements for the States of Banswara, Pertabgarh and the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of July, 1900.

(*a*) *Private relief.*—Some 200 people are on private relief in Pertabgarh. Banswara returns show no private relief, but such relief does exist.

(*b*) *Village and poor-house relief.*—In Pertabgarh the central poor-house is at the Capital and Dalot. Kitchens at Sagthali and Damoter. In Banswara there are poor-houses in Banswara and Garhi. Kitchens in Kalinger, Bhongra and Loaria. The Kushalgarh poor-house is in Kushalgarh.

(*c*) *Character of works.*—Tanks, wells, and a few buildings.

(*d*) *Physical condition of people.*—Improving in Pertabgarh. I have not been able to judge in Banswara.

(*e*) No death from starvation reported.

(*f*) *Food stock.*—Sufficient.

(*g*) Importation of grain continues in both States and Kushalgarh.

(*h*) Conditions are favourable and prospects bright.

(*i*) No change in wages.

(*j*) *Emigration and Immigration.*—Emigrants who left the States in earlier stages of famine are returning and others passing through on return to Meywar, but in small numbers.

(*k*) 6½ inches of rain were registered in Pertabgarh during the month, and I should judge that about 2 inches more fell in the District. Banswara and Kushalgarh report good rain. The amount, though below the average, fell at such favourable times as to be of great benefit to cultivation though not to filling of tanks. Agricultural operations are in full swing. Takavi advances have been made in all three States and cattle are being imported. Charitable relief money has and is being distributed.

There is now sufficient grazing for cattle and the mortality among them has considerably decreased. The decrease in numbers on relief works is smaller in Banswara than in Pertabgarh. I attribute this partly to the late opening of a new work at Chilkhari, which the Durbar are no doubt anxious to show on their returns. The report too from Banswara, in order to reach me in time for forwarding, has to be made out at an earlier date than that of Pertabgarh, and by that date so much rain had not fallen and agricultural operations had not commenced to such an extent.

No. 202.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3321-F., dated Abu, the 19th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 3122-F., dated the 17th of August 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements* of the Banswara and Partabgarh States and of the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of August 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter No. 3297, dated the 10th of September, 1900.

2. The following table gives the numbers on relief in Banswara during the last ten months, but as explained in my review of the May report, the returns up to April were by no means reliable :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November, 1899	161	50	211	·9
December „	432	78	510	·24
January, 1900	576	100	676	·31
February „	1,565	237	1,802	·85
March „	3,764	410	4,174	1·97
April „	4,103	565	4,668	2·21
May „	4,743	765	5,508	2·61
June „	5,525	984	6,509	3·07
July „	2,521	884	3,405	1·61
August „	—	825	825	·39

Relief works have now been closed altogether in Banswara. The total of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief has fallen by only 6 per cent. There are still over 800 persons assisted in this way. Four kitchens were opened in the State for the relief of people whom the closing of the works had turned adrift,

* Not printed.

but who can find no means of subsistence until the ripening of the earlier kharif crops.

3. The numbers on relief in Partabgarh since December last are brought together in the following table :—

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
December, 1899	1,982	35	2,017	2·29
January, 1900	2,248	73	2,321	2·63
February „	1,815	108	1,923	2·24
March „	2,188	159	2,347	2·71
April „	4,051	219	4,270	4·85
May „	4,020	528	4,548	5·16
June „	4,265	516	4,781	5·43
July „	757	424	1,181	1·34
August „	283	335	618	·70

A few people are still employed on road work and a few more are in receipt of cooked food in the central poor-house and outlying kitchens. But these will rapidly disappear, and by the end of the current month relief operations of every kind will have come to a close.

4. It is unnecessary to give the statistics of previous months for the Chiefship of Kushalgarh. The works were closed during July, and at the end of August there were only 100 persons in receipt of relief in the poor-house.

5. All the tracts covered by these reports have received more than the average rainfall for the season, while the standing crops have suffered from flooding on the low lands. The Assistant Resident reports that a little fine weather is now urgently required. Excessive damp and cold at nights have told on the poorer classes, and when the strong autumn sun reappears, a severe outbreak of malaria will almost certainly follow. Prices have fallen slightly and the import trade is much less brisk. The Assistant Resident reports a break in communications between Partabgarh and the Railway, but such an accident is not of so much moment now that various edible grass seeds and jungle products are available.

Enclosure in No. 202.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident in Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 3297, *dated Udaipur, the* 10*th September*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Famine Reports for the States of Banswara and Partabgarh and the Chiefship of Kushalgarh for the month of August, 1900.

2. Relief works have been closed in Banswara and Kushalgarh, while in Partabgarh only 283 persons are shown to be on relief works at the end of the month.

About 40 inches of rain is reported to have fallen in the States up to the 3rd of September, and the crops are doing well except on low-lying land where they have been slightly damaged owing to excessive rain.

Annexure.

Remarks by Lieutenant S. B. Patterson, Assistant Resident, Banswara and Partabgarh, to accompany Famine Statements of States of Banswara and Partabgarh, for the month of August, 1900.

(*a*) *Private relief.*—Ninety people are supported thus in Partabgarh. This does not include people who receive doles from the money publicly subscribed in augmentation of that allotted by the Central Committee.

(*b*) There are poor-houses in Banswara, Partabgarh and Kushalgarh. Four kitchens have been started in Banswara and four in Partabgarh. One in Kushalgarh.

(*d*) The condition of the people is improving.

(*e*) No deaths from starvation.

(*f*) Grain is sufficient and is being imported in Partabgarh and to a lesser extent to Banswara.

(*h*) About 10 inches of rain have fallen up to date (3rd September) and a break is urgently required. The crops are doing well, except on low-lying land where they are slightly swamped.

(*j*) People who emigrated are returning to the State, and people of other States are passing through. The latter, chiefly Marwaris, who receive a dole at the various centres.

(*k*) The condition of the cattle is now good. Fodder is ample. The general health is good, but the severe weather is undoubtedly telling on many, coming on the top of the recent severe famine. Food-grains for general consumption vary from 8 seers to the rupee in Banswara to 8-12 in Partabgarh. The rate would be more favourable in Partabgarh, but for the unfortunate break on the road at Mandsaur which prevents wheeled traffic.

No. 203.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2207-F., dated Abu, the 18th May, 1900.

In continuation of this office letter No. 1807-F., dated 14th April 1900* I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement† of the Alwar State for the month of April 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter No. 1724, dated the 9th May, 1900.

2. The numbers in receipt of both kinds of relief are shown in the marginal table. The large decrease of 35 per cent. in the figures on works is attributed to a lowering of the wage at the same time as the tasks were raised and to a general tightening of discipline all round. The wages have been again reduced, and now approximate very closely to the scale in force in the Central Provinces. The number of works in progress has been reduced from 21 to 8.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October ...	2,660	316	2,976	·37
November ...	2,198	151	2,349	·32
December ...	3,163	389	3,552	·46
1900.				
January ...	4,800	1,054	5,854	·77
February ...	7,801	1,524	9,325	1·22
March	10,208	1,573	11,781	1·55
April	6,615	3,022	9,637	1·27

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have nearly doubled. 870 out of a total of over 3,000 are non-working children who are paid one pice per head.

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* See page 444 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

4. No detailed estimate of the rabi outturn has been furnished, but the Political Agent anticipates that it will be possible to realise three-fourths of the current demand. The "extra rabi" crops now in the ground are doing well. Both people and cattle are said to be improving in condition. The results of the harvest, together with the extension of their system of wells, have put heart into the former, and the new straw will enable the latter to pick up strength.

Enclosure in No. 203.

Letter from Captain L. Impey, Political Agent, Alwar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1724, *dated Alwar, the 9th May*, 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 1259, dated 6th April, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement of the Alwar State for April, 1900. No change has taken place in the areas affected by famine.

2. The number of persons on relief works has fallen from 10,208 on the 31st March to 6,615 on the 30th April. The decrease is due to the lowering of the rates owing to the fall in the price of food-grains and to an increase in the tasks set on road work in easy soil. During inspections of relief works during the past month it was ascertained that, on certain works where the numbers were rapidly rising, the tasks set could be easily executed in four or five hours' work. The labourers on these roads were in excellent condition, and were receiving excessive pay for a small amount of work. The alterations in the rates and the tasks had the effect of causing an exodus from the two works where the arrangements had been lax. Barley is the cheapest food-grain now available, and its price varies according to localities from 13 seers 4 chittacks to 15 seers per rupee. On works where barley is selling at 14 seers and over the rates at present are :—

Class.	Rate.	Grain equivalent.
	As. p.	Chittacks.
Diggers	1 3	18
Carriers	1 0	$14\frac{1}{2}$
Working children	0 6	$7\frac{1}{4}$
Children under seven years of age ...	0 3	$3\frac{5}{8}$

The rates on works where the prices are not so favourable are :—

Class.	Rate.
	As. p.
Diggers	1 6
Carriers	1 3
Working children	0 9
Children under seven	0 3

3. Gratuitous relief is confined to the issue of one pice per head to non-working children of labourers on relief works, and to grain doles of 8 chittacks

a day issued weekly at the tahsil head-quarters to destitute persons who are unable to perform any kind of labour. On the 30th April gratuitous relief was afforded to 3,022 persons as against 1,857 on the 31st March.

4. Arrangement have been made in communication with the Commissioner of Delhi for the employment of Alwar labourers at the relief work at Kund on the Rewari-Phalera Railway. It is believed, however that not many Alwar subjects will present themselves for employment at this work.

5. No deaths from starvation have been reported, there has been no epidemic so far, and the condition of the people is fairly good, in fact it has improved during the last six weeks. The cattle too, especially the bullocks, seem to be in a better state. Grass has been distributed as *taccavi* to many zamindars, and the straw of the winter crops and leaves of the "pala" have assisted in improving the condition of the more valuable cattle.

6. A sum of Rs. 5,123 was advanced in taccavi last month, mainly for the construction of masonry wells. In many parts the agricultural community are still engaged in thrashing out the corn, operations having been delayed through the storms that occurred in the middle of April. Tobacco, cotton and chena have been sown in well land, and the plants appear to be doing satisfactorily.

It is anticipated that nearly three-quarters of the "rabi" demand will be realised, but it is not proposed to recover any of the "taccavi" advances that have been made during the year.

Annexure.

ALWAR STATE.

Relief was afforded to the immigrants and the poor and destitute persons of the State from private charity, which is estimated at Rs. 500 a month.

Food-grain was distributed gratuitously to the cripple and destitute persons at all the twelve tahsils of the State, while children of workers under seven years of age received substantial allowance at 3 pies each on different relief works. The actual number of persons who received gratuitous relief on the 30th April, 1900, was :—

—	Number.
Cripple and destitute persons	2,152
Children of relief workers...	870
Total	3,022

The cost on gratuitous relief during the month has been as follows :—

—	Rs. a. p.
(*a*) Cripple and destitute persons of the State	2,437 7 9
(*b*) Children of workers	608 11 0
Total	3,046 2 9

Private subscription list, opened in November 1899 and mentioned in the previous month's report, now amounts to Rs. 2,543-8-6.

2. In the beginning there were 21 petty works of digging village tanks, &c., in progress, of these 13 were closed, leaving 8 petty works in progress at the close of the month. The number of persons employed on these works on 30th April, 1900, was 260.

Eleven large works were in progress during the month under the supervision of the officers of Imperial Service Troops, assisted by the Public Works subordinates. The number of persons employed on these works at the close of the month was 5,995. It will be seen that the total number of persons on large and petty works, who obtained relief in

the State on the 30th April, 1900, was 6,255 against 9,783 in the previous month, showing a decrease of 3,528. Of the 6,255 workers 6,173 were paid on the contract system, and the remaining 82, such as bhishtis, mates, carpenters, &c., received higher rates than the famine rates. The expenditure on relief works during the month amounted to Rs. 16,897-2.

The relief works on the Partabgarh-Thanaghazi road, the Lachmongarh-Kherli road, the Johar 1st Lancers and the Alwar-Khairtal road were inspected by the Political Agent, Alwar, and those on the Maeberi-Moujpore road, the Lachmongarh-Kherli road, the Johar 1st Lancers and the Alwar-Khairtal road by one of the Members of Council; while the Commanding Officer, Major Natha Singh, visited almost all the relief works during the month. The work on the Partabgarh-Thanaghazi road was reported all well. Certain defects as regards the strict supervision and control on the remaining works were noticed, and steps were at once taken to put matters aright.

It will be observed that the number of workers show a decrease of 3,528 as compared with that in the previous month. This decrease may be attributed to the following causes :—

(*a*) People generally found employment on the fields where the rabi harvest was being reaped.

(*b*) It was noticed on inspection of the works that the workers had easy time on soft soil, and so, when the task was slightly increased and a full eight hours' work was exacted under the rules, those who did not actually require work and could afford to do without it went away gradually.

(*c*) The outturn of the rabi crop has helped the agriculturists to maintain themselves without any work for some little time to come.

It will be seen that the expenditure on the gratuitous relief during the month has been Rs. 3,046-2-9, and that on relief works Rs. 16,897-2, total Rs. 19,943-4-9.

3. The physical condition of the people is fair.

4. No death from starvation was reported during the month.

5. As has been previously reported, there are no large stocks of food-grains in the State, but grain is imported from the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces by rail in sufficient quantity according to the requirements of the people.

6. There was a slight fall of hailstones in Tijara and Lachmongarh Tahsils during the month, but no damage was done. The rabi harvest has been reaped; water in the wells is very low, and steps are being taken to clean, deepen or repair them throughout the State, more especially for drinking purposes. Fodder has been obtained from the rabi crop for plough oxen, and is considered sufficient for present requirements. There is no disease amongst cattle.

7. A sum of Rs. 5,123 was distributed to the agriculturists on account of taccavi advances during the month, bringing the total up to Rs. 1,86,814. Up to date, 727 masonry wells have been either newly-constructed, deepened or repaired, and 7,644 kutcha wells (dheirs and dhenklies) dug by means of taccavi advances.

8. The following changes in the rate of wages have been effected during the month :—

(*a*) On works where food-grain is selling at 14 seers or above per rupee :—

Class.	Rate.	Grain equivalent.
	Rs. a. p.	Chittacks.
Diggers	0 1 3	18
Carriers	0 1 0	14½
Working children between 8 and 16 years	0 0 6	7¼
Children under 7 years who do no work	0 0 3	3⅝

(*b*) On works were food-grain is selling under 14 seers per rupee :—

Class.	Rate.	Grain equivalent.
	Rs. a. p.	Chittacks.
Diggers	0 1 6	19
Carriers	0 1 3	15⅝
Working children between 8 and 16 years	0 0 9	9½
Children under 7 years who do no work...	0 0 3	3⅛

Persons on gratuitous relief received rations at the following rates :—

—	Chittacks.
Adult males or females at	8
Children at	4

9. Prices were almost stationary during the month.

10. Fourteen persons with cattle immigrated from Jaipur and settled in Thanaghazi Tahsil, and one family that had emigrated from Bansur last month returned to their home. Eight persons are reported to have emigrated from Lachmongarh Tahsil.

11. There being no change in the affected area of the State, the map submitted with the previous reports holds good.

No. 204.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2512 F., dated Abu, the 16th June, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2207 F., dated the 18th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Alwar State for the month of May, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter No. 6 C., dated 8th June, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief during the last eight months are brought together in the marginal table, from which it will be seen that the decline noticed last month has been maintained. The workers have fallen by 19 per cent. to nearly the January total. The eleven large works under the supervision of the officers of the Imperial Service Troops noticed in last month's statement remained open during May. The petty works under Civil Agency were gradually closed, and on the last day of the month there was only one in progress. 271 inhabitants of the State are working by permission on the railway embankment in the Gurgaon district. Although the scale of wages in force in April remained unchanged, the expenditure on relief works has dropped by more than one-half, the cost of relief per head being Rs. 1-8-3 in May as compared with Rs. 2-8-10 in the previous month. The reason for this great fall is not very clear.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October ...	2,660	316	2,976	·37
November ...	2,198	151	2,349	·32
December ...	3,163	389	3,552	·46
1900.				
January ...	4,800	1,054	5,854	·77
February ...	7,801	1,524	9,325	1·22
March	10,208	1,573	11,781	1·55
April	6,615	3,022	9,637	1·27
May	5,307	2,913	8,220	1·08

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have declined slightly, and the cost of relief per head for the month was 15 annas and 2 pies. If the expenditure figures given in the statement are correct, the average relief per head is barely 2 pice daily. But probably these statistics represent the sums drawn from the treasury by disbursing officers, and not the money actually spent by them. A great fall is apparent in the number of children dependents

* Not printed.

relieved which is not accounted for. The numbers of the crippled and destitute on relief have risen.

4. Last month it was anticipated that three-fourths of the rabi demand would be realised. As a matter of fact, the revenue collections amount to 81 per cent. of the total. The administration have thus already begun to realise a direct return from their liberal advances to cultivators for wells. During May Rs. 10,135 were advanced in this way, making an aggregate of nearly two lakhs. Both the people and their cattle are in good condition, and the supply of fodder is said to be sufficient. Eleven receiving depôts for emigrants have been opened, where 586 persons and 12 animals were fed during the month. The food ration works out to 10·1 chittacks, and the fodder ration to 7 seers per head.

Enclosure in No. 204.

Letter from Captain L. Impey, Political Agent, Alwar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 6 C., dated Abu, the 8th June, 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 1724, dated the 9th May, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement of the Alwar State for the month of May, 1900.

2. The number of persons on relief works has fallen from 6,615 on the 30th April to 5,307 on the 31st May. The figures include the returns for the petty estate of Nimrana, where 347 labourers were employed at the end of the month of May. The decrease in the numbers on works took place early in May, when many labourers returned to their villages in consequence of the lowering of the rates and of the increased tasks set on road work in easy soil. No change in the rates of payment has been made during the month. The Gurgaon authorities have opened a relief work at Kund, a village close to the north-western frontier of the State. Permission has been obtained for the employment of residents of the Behror district on this work, as it had not been found possible to start a relief work in this part of Alwar. On the 31st May there were 271 Alwar subjects employed on the earthwork of the Kund section of the Rewari-Phalera Railway.

3. On the 31st May, gratuitous relief was afforded at tahsil head-quarters, and on works to 2,913 persons as against 3,022 on the 30th April. The condition of the people is fairly good, and no deaths from starvation have been reported.

Cholera appeared in one village in the Mundawar district, and there were a few cases in four other places. The disease so far has not broken out on relief works, and 16 fresh cases of cholera have been reported in the State during the last ten days.

4. The returns of crime show that an increase has taken place lately in the number of petty cases. During the hot weather months the fields are more or less deserted, so to guard against an outbreak of crime during this period of famine, arrangements have been made for the temporary establishment of new police outposts, and for the regular patrolling by sowars of certain lonely roads during the months of May, June, and July. The arrangements introduced during November and December last for the deputation of special police officers for the prevention of border crime have worked well.

5. Some heavy showers of rain fell during the month, the average fall for the whole State in May being 98 cents. The villagers in many places have sown cotton and bajra, and are busy preparing the land in hopes of an early monsoon. Fodder is getting very scarce, and the less valuable animals are suffering in consequence. During May a sum of Rs. 10,135 was advanced for the repair and construction of masonry wells. Arrangements are now being made for the distribution of taccavi to cultivators who require assistance for the purchase of seed and plough oxen.

The revenue collections for the rabi have exceeded expectations, as Rs. 8,41,374 have been realised out of a total demand of Rs. 10,35,031. The liberal grants of taccavi have thus not only been the means of maintaining the cultivators on the land, but have also enabled the State to realise nearly 81 per cent. of the demand.

6. Eleven relieving depôts have been established for the assistance of emigrants returning from the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces to their homes in Rajputana. At each of these depôts the emigrants are given grain doles and fodder for their cattle. The statement appended to the monthly report shows that 586 persons were relieved during the past month.

Annexure.

ALWAR STATE.

Relief was afforded to the immigrants and the poor and destitute persons of the State from private charity, which is estimated at Rs. 500 a month.

Food-grain was distributed gratuitously to the cripple and destitute persons at all the twelve tahsils of the State, while children of workers under seven years of age received subsistence allowance of 3 pies each on the several relief works.

The actual number of persons who received gratuitous relief on the 31st May, 1900, was :—

—	Number.
(*a*) Cripple and destitute persons	2,554
(*b*) Children of workers	359
Total	2,913

The actual cost on gratuitous relief during the month has been :—

—	Rs. a. p.
(*a*) Cripple and destitute persons...	2,580 12 6
(*b*) Children of workers	202 1 2
Total	2,780 13 8

2. In the beginning of the month there were eight petty works of digging village tanks, &c., in progress. Of these seven were completed, leaving one petty work in progress at the close of the month.

Eleven large works were in progress during the month under the supervision of the officers of the Imperial Service Troops, assisted by the Public Works Department subordinates.

The number of persons employed on large and petty works on the 31st May, 1900, was :—

—	Number.
(*a*) Large works	4,942
(*b*) Petty works	20
Total	4,962

against 6,255 at the close of the previous month, showing a decrease of 1,293 persons.

Of the 4,962 workers, 3,844 were paid on the contract system, 1,022 on daily labour, and the remaining 96, such as bhishtis, mates, carpenters, &c., received higher rates than the famine rates.

The expenditure on relief works during the month amounted to Rs. 8,059-11-2.

It will be seen that the expenditure on gratuitous relief during the month was Rs. 2,782-13-8, and that on relief works Rs. 8,059-11-2, total Rs. 10,842-8-10.

3. Physical condition of the people is fair.

4. No death from starvation was reported during the month.

5. Stocks of food-grains are sufficient for the requirements of the people.

6. There have been good showers of rain in certain parts of the State. Behror recorded 1·73 inches and Rajgarh 1·19 inches, while the remaining tahsils received only slight showers. Cotton and bajra have been sown in places where the rainfall has been sufficient for the purpose.

Most of the drinking wells have been dried up. In others the water is very low, and steps are being taken to clean, deepen, and repair them.

Fodder is sufficient for present requirements.

There is no disease amongst cattle.

7. A sum of Rs. 10,135 was advanced to agriculturists on account of taccavi during the month, bringing the total up to Rs. 1,96,949.

Up to date 783 masonry wells have been either newly constructed, deepened or repaired, and 7,653 katcha wells (dhers or dhenklis) dug by means of taccavi advances.

8. There has been no change in the rate of wages.

(*a*) On works where food-grain is selling at 14 seers or above per rupee:—

Class.	Rate.	Grain equivalent.
	Rs. a. p.	Chittacks.
Diggers	0 1 3	18
Carriers	0 1 0	14½
Working children between 8 and 16 years	0 0 6	7¼
Children under 7 years who do no work...	0 0 3	3⅝

(*b*) On works where food-grain is selling under 14 seers per rupee:—

Class.	Rate.	Grain equivalent.
	Rs. a. p.	Chittacks.
Diggers	0 1 6	19
Carriers	0 1 3	15⅝
Working children between 8 and 16 years	0 0 9	9½
Children under 7 years who do no work...	0 0 3	3⅛

Persons on gratuitous relief received ration at the following rates:—

	Chittacks.
Adult males or females	8
Children	4

9. Prices remained stationary during the month.

10. Sixteen persons from Lachmangarh emigrated, while three persons immigrated and settled in that tahsil.

Two persons immigrated and settled in Gobindgarh and one in Bansur.

11. In pursuance of the instructions contained in letter, No. 2,081-87-F., dated the 8th May, 1900, from the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, a copy of which was received with Political Agent's letter, No. 1,797, dated the 12th idem, eleven relieving stations for returning immigrants and their cattle were opened in different parts of the State; 586 persons and 12 cattle were relieved during the month. An abstract of the registers maintained in the several relieving depôts is enclosed for information.

12. Arrangement was made by the Political Agent, Alwar, with the district authorities of Gurgaon for the relief of the Alwar people in the Behror district, where no large relief work was opened. The number of Alwar subjects relieved on the Kund relief work in the British district of Gurgaon on the 31st May, 1900, is reported to be as follows :—

——	Number.
Workers	231
Children	40
Total	271

13. There being no change in the affected area of the State, the maps submitted with the previous reports hold good.

Alwar, the 5th June, 1900.

No. 205.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2840-F., dated Abu, the 15th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 2512-F., dated the 16th July, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statement* of the Alwar State for the month of June, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 2558, dated the 7th July, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief during the last nine months are brought together in the marginal table. There is some difference between these figures and those given in the return for the week ending the 30th June. A reference is under issue to the Political Agent on the subject. Since March, when the wages were reduced to approximately the code scale of the North-Western Provinces, the number steadily declined. This decrease has been checked and the number on works has increased by two-thirds to 3,577. The rise is due to a deepening of distress combined with some alarm on the part of the people at the delayed rains. The bulk of the labour was employed on thirteen large works, two of which were completed during the month; more than two-thirds of the workers were employed on the contract system. The remarks appended to the statement say that there has been no change in the rate of wages, but the cash

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
1899.				
October ...	2,660	316	2,976	·37
November ...	2,198	151	2.349	·32
December ...	3,163	389	3,552	·46
1900.				
January ...	4,800	1,054	5,854	·77
February ...	1,801	1,524	9,325	1·22
March	10,208	1,573	11,781	1·55
April	6,615	3,022	9,637	1·27
May	5,307	2,913	8,220	1·08
June	8,884	3,268	15,152	1·59

* Not printed.

rates would appear to have been modified in proportion to the rise in the price of grain. Only three petty village works under Civil Agency were in progress. The heat was so intense during the greater part of the month that the working hours have been reduced from eight to seven. The tasks, and presumably the contract rates, have also been modified. The number of Alwar subjects at work on the railway embankment in the Gurgaon district have risen slightly.

3. The persons in receipt of gratuitous relief have increased by 12 per cent. The increase has been chiefly confined to dependents of all ages on the relief works. There was a large drop in the numbers of this class during the previous month, and the June total is not yet equal to that of April. It has been found necessary for the first time since the famine began to open a poor-house at the capital. The great majority of the inmates are foreign immigrants, many of them being children. I have invited the attention of the Political Agent to the urgent necessity for looking after female orphans.

4. As was to be expected takkavi loans for wells have been more sparingly issued. Up to date, 879 masonry wells and 7,677 unbricked wells have been constructed or put into thorough working order with State aid at a cost of Rs. 2,10,284. The area these can usefully water may be put approximately at 27,000 acres. The water level in all the wells is now very low and there is a great scarcity of drinking water in many parts of the State. Little fodder is left and the condition of the cattle is giving cause for anxiety. The depôts for the relief of returning emigrants have been of great service, as the majority of the people and cattle who had migrated across the Jamna in search of grazing are in poor condition. Human beings receive from 8 to 16 chittacks of flour per head, and each animal gets a daily meal of 7 seers of grass. The average ration for human beings was 13·3 chittacks during May and not 10·1 as erroneously reported in my review of the May statement. During June the average ration was first under 14·1 chittacks. An average of nearly 291 people and 50 cattle passed through the State every day of the month on the way to their homes.

Enclosure in No. 205.

Letter from Captain L. Impey, Political Agent, Alwar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Mount Abu, No. 2558, dated Alwar, the 7th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 6 C., dated 8th June, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement of the Alwar State for the month of June, 1900.

2. During the past month the number of persons on relief works has risen from 5,307 to 8,884. The numbers are rising day by day, and the increase will continue until the monsoon breaks. The price of barley on all the works is now about 12 seers the rupee and the rates of payment have everywhere been adjusted to meet the rise in prices.

The daily wages now are :—

Class.	Rate.
	Rs. a. p.
Diggers receive	0 1 6
Carriers „	0 1 3
Working children receive	0 0 9
Non-working children receive	0 0 3

Owing to the intense heat and to a number of deaths from sunstroke and heat apoplexy having been reported the tasks have been reduced, and the labourers now are expected to work for seven instead of eight hours a day.

On the 30th of June there were 355 Alwar subjects employed on the earth-work of the Rewari-Phulera railway as against 271 at the end of May.

3. On the 30th June gratuitous relief was afforded at Tehsils and on works to 3,268 persons as against 3,022 on the 31st May. No deaths from starvation have been reported. It has been found necessary within the last few days to start a poor-house at Alwar as a number of emaciated wanderers had taken to begging in the city. There are at present some fifty inmates of the poor-house, mostly children. Out of this number only three are residents of Alwar, the remainder being emigrants from Alwar and Jeypore.

4. Cholera is prevalent in the Western and Southern districts. From the commencement of the outbreak to the end of June 313 cases and 178 deaths were reported ; so far the relief workers had escaped, but a report was received last night of the appearance of the disease on a relief work where some five hundred people are employed. The Medical Staff has been strengthened and orders have issued to move camp.

5. Only ·54 cents of rain were registered for the State during June, and these showers did not do much good. The water level all over the State has fallen very low, and in the Tijara, Rajgurh, and Alwar Tehsils, more especially, complaints are being made as to a difficulty in procuring drinking water. Cattle are dying from want of fodder, and even the plough and well oxen, that have been well cared for so far, are suffering from the scarcity. A sum of Rs 13,335 was granted in tuccavi during the past month for the repair and construction of wells.

6. During June 8,744 persons and 1,492 cattle passed through the eleven relieving depôts that have been established to assist emigrants on their return journey.

At these depôts the following rations are distributed :—

—	Barley flour.	Salt.
(1) Adults	1 seer	$\frac{1}{3}$ chittack
(2) Children from 9 to 16	$\frac{3}{4}$ „	$\frac{1}{3}$ „
(3) Children from 3 to 8	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	$\frac{1}{3}$ „

Cattle 7 seers of grass per head.

Annexure.

ALWAR STATE.

Relief was afforded to the emigrants, and the poor and destitute persons of the State, from private charity, which is estimated at Rs. 1,000 nearly a month.

Food grain was distributed by the State gratuitously to the cripple and destitute persons at all the 12 Tehsils of the State, while children of workers under seven years of age received subsistence allowances of three pies each on the several relief works.

The actual number of persons who received gratuitous relief on the 30th June, 1900, was :—

—	Number.
Cripple and destitute persons	2,621
Children of workers and the sick on relief works ...	647
Total	3,268

The actual cost on gratuitous relief during the month has been :—

—	Rs. a. p.
(*a*) On cripple and destitute persons	2,534 2 6
(*b*) On children of workers and the sick on relief works	386 15 0
Total	2,921 1 6

2. There was only one petty work of digging village tank in progress in the beginning of the month ; two more works were started during the month, making a total of three petty works at close of the month. Thirteen large works were in progress under the supervision of the officers of Imperial Service Troops assisted by the Public Works Department subordinates ; of these two were completed, leaving eleven works in progress at the close of the month.

The number of persons employed on large and petty works on the 30th June, 1900 was :—

—	Number.
(*a*) On large works	8,261
(*b*) On petty works	249
Total	8,510 against 4,962

at the close of the previous month, showing an increase of 3,548 persons.

Of the 8,510 workers, 5,867 were paid on the contract system, 2,469 on daily labour, and the remaining 174, such as bhishties, mates, carpenters, &c., received higher rates than the famine rates.

The expendi.ure on relief works during the month amounted to Rs. 13,262–5–3.

It will be seen that the expenditure on gratuitous relief during the month was Rs. 2,921–1–6, while that on relief works was Rs. 13,262–5–3, or a total expenditure of Rs. 16,183–6–9.

3. Physical condition of the people is fair.

4. No death from starvation was reported during the month.

5. Stocks of food grain are sufficient for the requirements of the people.

6. There have been some slight showers of rain in 11 Tehsils of the State, giving an average of 52 cents. for each Tehsil during the month. Rain is badly wanted. Most of the drinking wells have totally dried up. The water in the remaining wells is very low, and if the rains do not set in early a water famine in several parts of the State is apprehended.

The heat has been most intense for the last 10 or 12 days, and several deaths from extreme heat have been reported.

Fodder is now scarce throughout the State. There is no disease amongst cattle.

7. A sum of Rs. 13,335 was advanced to the agriculturists on account of Taccavi during the month, bringing the total up to Rs. 2,10,284. Up to date, 879 masonry wells have been either newly constructed, deepened or repaired, and 7,677 kutcha wells (Dhers and Dhenklies) dug by means of Taccavi advances.

8. There has been no change in the rate of wages. The price of food-grain having risen throughout the State, the following uniform rate was allowed to all the workers :—

Class.	Rate.	Grain equivalent.
	Rs. a. p.	Chittacks.
Diggers	0 1 6	18
Carriers	0 1 3	15
Working children between 8 and 16 years	0 0 9	9
Children under 7 years of age who do not work.	0 0 3	3

Persons of gratuitous relief receive rations at the following rates : —

——	Chittacks.
Adults males or females	8
Children	4

9. Prices have risen during the month.

10. Five families in Govindgurh and one family in Luchmangarh were newly settled, while 16 persons emigrated from the Bansur tehsil during the month.

11. Eleven relieving depôts for returning emigrants and their cattle were established in different parts of the State during the latter part of May, 1900. 8,744 persons with 1,492 cattle were relieved during the month. An abstract of the register maintained in the several relieving depôts is herewith enclosed.

12. The number of Alwar subjects relieved on the Kooand Relief Work, in the British District of Gurgaon, during the month of June was 9,341.

Number of persons relieved on the 30th June, 1900, is reported to be as follows :—

——	Number.
Workers	305
Children	50
Total	355

13. There being no change in the affected area of the State, the maps submitted with the previous reports hold good.

Alwar, the 6th July, 1900.

No. 206.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3106 F., dated Abu, the 15th August, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2840 F., dated the 15th July, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statement* of the Alwar State for the month of July, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 42 C., dated the 9th August, 1900.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage on population.
1899.				
October ...	2,660	316	2,976	·37
November ...	2,198	151	2,349	·32
December ...	3,163	389	3,552	·46
1900.				
January ...	4,800	1,054	5,854	·77
February ...	7,801	1,524	9,325	1·22
March	10,208	1,573	11,781	1·55
April	6,615	3,022	9.637	1·27
May	5,307	2,193	8,220	1·08
June	8,884	3,263	12,152	1·59
July	6,729	3,461	10,150	1·33

2. The numbers on relief of all kinds during the last 10 months are brought together in the marginal table. The figures in last month's report which appeared doubtful have now been ascertained to be correct. The workers have decreased by very nearly one quarter during the month under report. The total is now much the same as it was during the progress of harvest operations in April. All the petty works under

* Not printed.

Civil Agency were closed in July, and all applicants for labour are now concentrated on 10 large projects under the management of the Imperial Service Troops. The proportion of labourers on contract terms has risen slightly to just under 70 per cent.

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have risen by 5 per cent. The increase has been confined to persons relieved by doles in their villages. The new poorhouse, which was established mainly for the relief of destitute aliens, contained 109 inmates on the last day of the month. No reference is made to orphans, but I am assured by the Political Agent in a separate communication that their care will not be lost sight of.

4. The monsoon broke in Alwar on the 12th July, from three to five days after the rest of the province had received fairly general rain. The fall was partial, and even the second advance of the current at the end of the month did not give sufficient rain to every tahsil. This is clearly brought out by the Political Agent in his covering letter. Even now the situation in the tahsils in the north-east is not satisfactory. Cholera broke out on two relief works, but did not cause very much trouble. The water level in the wells has as yet hardly risen, and the tanks are only partially filled.

Enclosure in No. 206.

Letter from Captain L. Impey, Political Agent, Alwar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Mount Abu, No. 42 C., dated Jeypore, the 8th August, 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter, No. 2558, dated the 7th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit the famine report of the Alwar State for the month of July.

2. The number of persons on relief works has fallen from 8,884 on the 30th June to 6,729 on the 31st July, the decrease being due to cultivators having left the works to sow their crops. During the past month a daily average of over 400 Alwar subjects were employed at Kund on the earthwork of the Rewari-Phulera Railway. I was informed yesterday by the officer in charge of the camps that this relief work was closed on the 25th July, and that the Alwar subjects had been turned adrift. It was unfortunate that previous notice of the intended closing of this work had not been given, so that arrangements might have been made by the Durbar for the employment elsewhere of their labourers.

3. On the 31st July, gratuitous relief was given to 404 dependents at relief camps, as against 647 on the last day of June. The number of persons in receipt of grain doles was 2,948, and the poorhouse contained 109 inmates. The total number of persons who received gratuitous relief was 3,461, the figures for the previous month being 3,268.

The Alwar poorhouse was opened on the 4th July mainly for the relief of emaciated wanderers who were trying to return to their homes in Jaipur and Marwar. A ration of 8 to 10 chittaks of cooked food is allowed to adults, while children receive a supply of milk and 4 to 6 chittaks of food per diem.

4. The body of a man, who is believed to have died from starvation, was found in the Bansur Tehsil. It is not known where he came from. Cholera is still prevalent in the State. Since the commencement of the outbreak to the end of July, 704 cases and 399 deaths have been reported. During July cholera appeared on two relief works. The camps were moved, the usual sanitary precautions were taken, and no further cases have occurred on works.

5. The first burst of the monsoon took place on the night of the 12th July. This was followed by a break of 10 days, but good rain during the last days of the month have enabled the cultivators to plough and sow their land. The rain that has fallen has not replenished the wells, but has partially filled some of the tanks. The local variations are great. The total fall registered in Rajgarh was 7·05 inches, while Kishengarh only received 1·61 cents. during the

month. The average rainfall during July for the State was about 3 inches. The agricultural prospects have improved, but more rain is required, and in the districts of Kathiawar, Kishengarh, and parts of Luchmongarh the situation is still regarded with anxiety.

6. Taccavi, to the extent of Rs. 45,831, was granted during the month to cultivators, the greater portion of this sum being intended for the purchase of seed grain.

Fodder was very scarce during July. A considerable mortality took place among cattle, and the majority of plough oxen are weak, but the grass now springing up is becoming available for fodder, and their condition should daily improve.

7. The cheapest grain procurable is barley, and it is selling at about 11½ seers the rupee. No change has been made in the rates of payment on relief works. It is anticipated that, if the rains continue favourable, it will be possible to close the relief works towards the end of September when the bajra will be ripening.

8. During July 12,421 emigrants and 365 cattle were fed at the relieving depôts in Alwar.

Annexure.

ALWAR STATE.

Relief was afforded to the emigrants and the poor and destitute persons of the State from private charity, which is estimated at Rs. 1,000 nearly a month.

Food-grain was distributed by the State gratuitously to the cripple and destitute persons at all the 12 tehsils of the State, while children of workers under 7 years of age received subsistence allowance of 3 pies each on the several relief works.

The actual number of persons who received gratuitous relief on the 31st July 1900, was :—

—	Number.
(*a*) Cripple and destitute persons	2,948
(*b*) Children of workers and the sick on the relief works	404
Total	3,352

The actual cost on gratuitous relief during the month has been—

—	Rs. a. p.
(*a*) On cripple and destitute persons	3,620 15 0
(*b*) On children of workers and the sick on the relief works.	320 14 0
Total	3,941 13 0

As already reported in this office Letter, No. 3204, dated the 1st instant, a poor-house was opened in Alwar on the 4th ultimo for the relief of famine-stricken people. There were 109 persons in it on the last day of the month. Cooked dalia or khichri at the rate of from 8 to 10 chittaks to adult males or females, and from 4 to 6 chittaks to children, was given daily for their subsistence and clothes supplied to them from the local charitable fund. The expenditure during the month has been Rs. 272-9-0.

2. There were three petty works of digging village johars (tanks) in progress in the beginning of the month. Two more works were started during the month, making a total of five. All the five works were closed by the end of the month under report.

In the beginning of July, 11 large works were in progress under the supervision of the officers of the Imperial Service Troops, assisted by the Public Works Department subordinates, and one more was started during the month, bringing the total up to 12. Of these, two were completed, leaving 10 in progress at the close of the month.

The number of persons employed on petty and large works on the 31st July 1900, was:—

—	Number.
(*a*) On petty works	—
(*b*) On large works	6,523
Total	6,523
Against	8,510

at the close of the previous month, showing a decrease of 1,987 persons.

Of the 6,523 workers, 4,544 were paid on the contract system, 1,853 on daily labour, and the remaining 126, such as bhishties, mates, carpenters, etc., received higher rates than the famine rates.

The expenditure on relief works during the month amounted to Rs. 14,916-13-9.

It will be seen that the expenditure on the gratuitous relief, including poorhouse, during the month was Rs. 4,214-6-0, while that on relief works was Rs. 14,916-13-9, a total expenditure of Rs. 19,131-3-9.

3. Physical condition of the people is fair. Cholera cases are, however, still reported from certain parts of the State. The total number of occurrences recorded from the commencement to end of July, was 704 cases and 399 deaths.

4. No death from starvation was reported during the month.

5. Stocks of food grain are sufficient for the requirements of the people.

6. There has been more or less rain in all the 12 tehsils of the State, giving an average of about 3 inches 11 cents. during the month. In Rajgarh and Bansur tehsils, however, the rainfall has been good, the figures for the month being 7·05 and 4·44 inches, respectively; more rain is badly wanted. The condition of the wells continues the same as reported in the last month.

Fodder continues to be scarce throughout the State. There is no disease among cattle.

7. A sum of Rs. 45,831 was advanced to the agriculturists on account of taccavi during the month, bringing the total up to Rs. 2,56,115. The advances were chiefly made for the purchase of seed grains, manure, oxen, and for the construction of pucca wells. Up to date, 899 masonry wells have been either newly constructed, deepened, or repaired, and 7,682 kutcha wells (Dhers and Dhenklis) dug by means of taccavi advances.

8. There has been no change in the rate of wages. Persons on gratuitous relief received rations at the same rate as in the previous month, viz. :—

—	Chittacks.
Adult males and females	8
Children	4

9. Prices remained stationary during the month.

11. The eleven relieving depôts for returning emigrants and their cattle, established in May last, relieved 12,421 persons and 365 cattle during the month. An abstract of the register maintained in the several relieving depôts is herewith enclosed.

12. The last report regarding the number of Alwar subjects employed on Chandpur relief works in the British district of Gurgaon has not yet been received.

13. There being no change in the affected area of the State, the maps submitted with previous reports hold good.

Alwar, 7th August, 1900.

No. 207.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3,309 F., dated Abu, the 15th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 3,106 F., dated the 15th August, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Alwar State for the month of August, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 135 C., dated the 9th September, 1900.

2. The numbers on relief during the last eleven months are brought together in the marginal table. The rainfall in the eastern districts was deficient from the beginning, and their condition became precarious when the monsoon currents ceased altogether in the middle of August. The table given in paragraph 5 of the Political Agent's letter shows the deficiency in each tahsil. The administration were forced to open more relief works to provide for labour applicants, the majority of which were supervised by Civil Agency. At the end of the month the numbers on works had risen by 19 per cent. to a total which has only once been exceeded during the progress of the famine.

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
October ...	2,660	316	2,976	·37
November ...	2,198	151	2,349	·32
December ...	3,163	389	3,552	·46
1900.				
January ...	4,800	1,054	5,854	·77
February ...	7,801	1,524	9,325	1·22
March	10,208	1,573	11,781	1·55
April	6,615	3,022	9,637	1·27
May	5,307	2,913	8,220	1·08
June	8,884	3,268	12,152	1·59
July	6,729	3,461	10,150	1·33
August	7,843	3,410	11,253	1·48

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have fallen slightly. In response to a suggestion I made last June, an orphanage was opened in Alwar city, but so far only four orphans have been found to take advantage of it.

4. At the close of the month it was anticipated that the yield of the kharif harvest in the eastern districts would be barely one-eighth of the normal, but I have since heard by telegram from the Political Agent that sufficient rain has fallen in these tracts during the last few days, and the standing crops have been saved. The prospects over the whole State are now promising. The most unpleasant feature of this month's report is the recrudescence of cholera, otherwise the health of the people is good and the cattle are fast picking up their strength.

Enclosure in No. 207.

Letter from Captain L. Impey, Political Agent, Alwar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 135 C., dated Jaipur, the 9th September, 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter, No. 42 C., dated the 8th August, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Report of the Alwar State for the month of August, 1900.

2. An increase has taken place in the number of labourers employed on relief works, the figures having risen from 6,729 on the 31st July, to 7,843 on

* Not printed.

the 31st August. The return of the people to relief works is due to the serious deficiency in the rainfall in the eastern districts of Govindgarh, Kishangarh, Kathumar, and Luchmangarh, where it was found necessary to re-open village works for the relief of the people.

3. On the last day of August, 222 dependants were in receipt of gratuitous relief on works as against 404 on the 31st July. Grain doles were granted to 2,975 persons, the figure for July being 2,948. In the poor-house 213 persons, mostly little children and their parents, were sheltered. The total number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief on the 31st August, was 3,410 as against 3,461 on the same date in July. When I last inspected the poor-house there were only four orphans in it, and every care will be taken to provide for these children when the time arrives for closing this institution. The inmates of the Alwar poor-house are in fairly good condition, and offer a favourable contrast to sufferers in States where the famine has been more severe.

4. No deaths from starvation were reported during the month. A great increase in cholera took place during August. Since the commencement of the outbreak, there have been 1,528 cases and 933 deaths, of these 824 cases and 534 deaths occurred during the past month. No cases were reported on works.

5. Except in the eastern tahsils the rainfall during the first half of August, though nowhere heavy, came at timely intervals and did much good. The crops were strong and vigorous, and grass plentiful. On the 17th August, a break in the monsoon commenced and lasted till the end of the month. The average rainfall for the State during August was about three inches.

The statement below will show clearly the inadequate character so far of the monsoon currents in Alwar :—

Tahsil.	July.	August.	Total.	Average annual rainfall for 5 years.
Alwar	3·63	4·07	7·70	20·37
Kishangarh	1·61	2·72	4·33	15·97
Thanaghazi	2·17	2·95	5·12	21·33
Mundawar	3·15	3·01	6·16	17·33
Behur	2·29	2·92	5·21	13·65
Ramgarh	1·82	2·78	4·60	14·97
Luchmangarh	1·73	1·46	3·19	15·64
Govindgarh	3·58	2·17	5·75	13·96
Tijara	3·46	3·02	6·48	13·42
Bansur	4·44	2·50	6·94	18·14
Rajgarh	7·05	3·15	10·20	17·98
Kathumar	3·11	1·82	4·93	16·50
Nimrana	3·82	6·79	10·61	14·27

The average taken is for the last five years, and in three of these years the monsoon was deficient. It will be noticed that the falls in July and August have at only two stations reached half the average annual rainfall of bad seasons. In the Thanaghazi and Ramgarh Tahsils the amounts recorded fall short of the actual rainfall in the surrounding districts, and no complaints have reached me of the failure of the harvests in these parts. It was mentioned in my last report

that in the Kathumar, Kishangar, and Luchmangarh Tahsils the situation was regarded with anxiety, and at the end of the month the prospects had become worse. The Govindgarh district was also suffering from the failure of the currents.

The drought of a fortnight had begun to affect the standing crops throughout the State, when fortunately the monsoon recommenced. On the 2nd instant falls over two inches were recorded in Alwar, Ramgarh, Govindgarh, and Kathumer, while Kishangarh, Luchmangarh and Tijara have all received over an inch. This return of the monsoon has considerably improved the agricultural situation, but the position in the eastern districts is still somewhat critical. If another good downpour occurs, the area for "rabi" crops will be largely increased, and some return from the "kharif" may also be anticipated from the lands in this part of the State.

6. The prices have fallen, and barley is now selling from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$ seers the rupee. Reduced rates of payment in consequence of the decrease in prices are being introduced on relief works. During August a sum of Rs. 33,128 was granted in taccavi chiefly to enable agriculturists to purchase seed. Cattle have begun to improve, as, except in the east, grass is available everywhere.

7. The relieving depôts are still open, and during August food was given to 9,821 persons and 121 cattle. It is intended to close these relieving stations on the 15th instant.

8. Since writing the above, I have heard that good showers fell on the 7th instant, and that six recording stations received amounts varying from ·58 to one inch. The rain seems to have been general over the eastern districts.

Annexure.

ALWAR STATE.

A detailed enquiry was made during the month as to the amount of private charity which the general public of the Alwar State spends monthly towards relieving the emigrants and the poor and destitute persons of the State. It appears that grain, flour, &c., worth Rs. 71-11-0, are distributed daily, and this is estimated to relieve 2,349 persons every day. The monthly cost comes to Rs. 2,150-10-0.

Food-grain was distributed by the State gratuitously to the cripple and destitute persons at all the 12 tahsils of the State, while children of workers under 7 years of age received subsistence allowance of 3 pies each on the several relief works. The actual number of persons who receive gratuitous relief on the 31st August, 1900, was :—

——	Number.
(*a*) Cripple and destitute persons...	2,975
(*b*) Children of workers	222
(*c*) Destitute persons in the Alwar poor-house... ...	213
Total	3,410

The actual cost on gratuitous relief during the month was :—

——	Rs. a. p.
(*a*) Cripple and destitute persons...	3,723 6 6
(*b*) Children of workers	144 7 6
(*c*) Destitute persons in the Alwar poor-house... ...	293 10 4
Total	4,161 8 4

It may be mentioned that clothes to the poor were supplied from the local charitable funds.

2. In the begining of the month there were ten large works in progress, eleven more works were opened during the month, making a total of 21 works; 13 of these were large and the remaining eight petty works. Eight of these were completed, leaving 13 works in progress, as below, at close of the month :—

—	Number.
(*a*) Large works under supervision of Imperial Service Troops.	5
(*b*) Petty works under supervision of tahsil establishment.	8
Total	13

The number of persons employed on these works on the 31st August, 1900, was;—

—	Number.
(*a*) Large works	4,969
(*b*) Petty works	2,874
Total	7,843

against 6,523 persons at the close of the previous month, showing an increase of 1,320 persons, due to failure of rain in Govindgarh, Luchmangarh, and Kathumar Tahsils in the latter part of August, 1900.

Of the 7,843 workers 5,785 were paid on the contract system and 1,930 on daily labour, while the remaining 128, such as bhishtis, mates, carpenters, &c., received higher wages than the famine rates.

The expenditure on relief works during the month amounted to Rs. 13,386-15-9.

The total expenditure in connection with famine during the month was :—

—	Rs. a. p.
(*a*) On gratuitous relief including poor-house... ...	4,161 8 4
(*b*) On relief works...	13,386 15 9
Total	17,548 8 1

3. Physical condition of the people is fair. Cholera still continues. There were 824 cases and 534 deaths during the month. The total number of cases and deaths from the beginning to end of August were 1,528 and 933, respectively.

4. No death from starvation was reported during the month.

5. The stocks of food-grains are sufficient for the requirements of the people.

6. There was more or less rain in all the 12 tahsils of the State, giving an average of 3 inches during the month. Kathumar and Luchmangarh Tahsils were badly off. Owing to failure of rain in the latter part of August the crops were beginning to dry, and apprehensions were felt of the total failure of harvest, but fortunately good rain fell throughout the State in the beginning of this month (September, 1900), and the prospects of the harvest have since considerably improved. Water in the wells is increasing. Green grass is abundant, and, on the whole, the prospects are brightening up.

There is no disease amongst cattle.

7. A sum of Rs. 33,128 was advanced to the agriculturists on account of taccavi advances chiefly for seed-grains during the month, bringing the total up to Rs. 2,89,243.

Up to date 903 masonry wells have been either newly constructed, deepened, or repaired, and 682 katcha wells (dhers and dhenklis) dug by means of taccavi advances.

8. There was no change in the rate of wages during the month.

Persons on gratuitous relief received rations at the same rate as in the previous month, viz. :—

—	Chittacks.
Adult males and females	8
Children	4

9. Prices remained stationary during the month.

10. Seventy-three families from Kathumar and 65 families from Luchmangarh temporarily migrated to the neighbouring villages in the Bharatpur State. 26 families from Jaipur immigrated and settled in the Thanaghazi Tahsil.

11. Eleven relieving depôts for returning emigrants and their cattle, established in the State in May last, relieved 9,821 persons and 128 cattle during the month. An abstract of the register maintained in the several relieving depôts is enclosed. There being no change in the affected area, the map submitted with previous reports holds good.

Alwar, the 7th September, 1900.

No. 208.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1,877 *F., dated Abu, the* 20*th April,* 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1,225 F., dated the 15th March, 1900,* I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements,† with maps of the Hilly Tracts of Kherwara and Kotra, for the month of March, 1900, together with the covering letter, No. 822, dated 14th April, of the Resident, Mewar.

2. The marginal table shows the numbers of persons on works and in receipt of gratuitous relief since December, 1899. During the month under report the total on relief has risen by 19 per cent. But the figures both of February and March seem open to doubt. According to the figures given in the detailed statement supplied by the Political Superintendent last month, the numbers on all works in the two districts, including the numbers at Para and Thana, which were estimated in absence of the actual figures, came to 3,464. This month again no details have been furnished for Kotra, and no fewer than eight relief works, which supported 525 persons during February, have been omitted from this month's return. Enquiries have been made from the Resident, but in the meantime it may be assumed that the total number of persons on relief is really over 5,000. This does not include a total of over one thousand people, who are being relieved by the resident missionaries.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
December ...	765	567	1,332	1·87
1900.				
January ...	1,505	806	2,311	3·25
February ...	2,906	966	3,872	5·45
March	3,254	1,372	4,626	6·51

3. The Resident is of opinion that the distress in these tracts is not so acute as has hitherto been imagined, because of the small percentage of the population in receipt of relief, the entire absence of the superior classes from the works, and the relatively small proportion of adult male Bhils on the works. These facts are certainly significant, but it must, on the other hand, be remembered that both abnormal mortality and extended emigration have reduced the

* *See* page 422 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.
† Not printed.

population to a marked extent, and also that crime is rife among unusually large numbers of the adult male Bhils.

4. The provision of funds for the expansion of relief measures and the subjects of grain-supply and carriage have already been discussed in separate communications.

Enclosure in No. 208.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 822, *dated Udaipur, the* 14*th April*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Monthly Famine Statements of the Kherwara and Kotra districts for the month of March, 1900.

2. As compared with the figures given in the return for February, it would appear that distress is nearly stationary in Kherwara, but a considerable increase has occurred in Kotra, chiefly under the head of gratuitous or charitable relief, which has risen from nil to 320.

Taking, however, the mean of the two districts, the total number of persons in receipt of relief of any kind amounts to only 6 per cent. of the population returned as affected.

This would hardly appear to justify the general condition of the people being reported as "very bad" and "bad."

3. During the month under review I visited and inspected the whole of the relief measures at Kherwara and a large relief work at Jawas, which has been reported as being the most severely affected of the Bhumia Chiefships. The opinion formed by me from the personal enquiries thus carried out, which has already been expressed in my covering letter (No. 244 of the 26th March) to the Famine Narratives received from the Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, for the same month, is that, although a certain proportion of the poorer Bhil population has suffered severely, and considerable mortality has occurred, and will probably continue to occur, owing to the emaciated condition in which these unfortunates arrive at, or are brought into, the poor-houses established for them, the condition of the bulk of the Bhil population and of the entire cultivating population of other classes is well above that of actual destitution. I have been guided in arriving at this opinion by the entire absence of the Patel or other superior cultivating classes from either the relief work at Jawas, or the poor-houses and charitable institutions there and at Kherwara, and the marked absence of the adult male Bhil population in any numbers on relief works throughout the district. It may be perfectly true, as reported by Colonel Bignell, that the Bhil is averse to manual labour or charitable relief, but the general absence of the adult able-bodied class of both sexes from both relief works or gratuitous relief institutions must be held to indicate that up the present time, at least, the bulk of the Bhil population has found other means of support, honest or otherwise.

4. At the same time there is ample evidence, as already reported in the correspondence ending with my letter, No. 282, of the 6th instant, that the most pressing necessity exists for relieving the pressure on the entire population of the Mewar Hilly Tracts, arising from the extreme deficiency in the supply of food-grain in both districts. The provision of the amount estimated as required to purchase and import grain for sale through local dealers, as communicated in the Agent to the Governor-General's telegram, No. 1,646 F., of the 6th instant, will remove the chief difficulty in the way of dealing promptly and successfully with this important question. As already reported, the original difficulty of providing transport has been now met by the organisation of an efficient transport corps of 559 camels, entertained at a monthly cost of Rs. 6,230, which will be increased, if necessary, by additional animals procured from Haraoti and elsewhere.

5. The measures to be adopted for the repression of violent crime now so prevalent amongst a section of the Bhil population have also been considered

in the correspondence above quoted. The increase of the force at the Regimental Head-quarters of the Mewar Bhil Corps as proposed by Colonel Bignell has now been carried out, but final orders on the subject are awaited before taking action to give effect to the proposed concerted preventive and repressive measures against the criminal sections of the Bhil population both in Kherwara and the Dungarpur State.

I would, however, urge that the question of the provision of funds for the requirements of relief operations in Kherwara and Kotra during the current financial year in the estimates already submitted should be taken up and decided as early as possible, so as to enable Colonel Bignell to meet all demands for an extension of relief works, or other forms of relief, simultaneously with his operations for the repression of crime and restoration of law and order.

Annexure 1.

Remarks by Colonel E. D. F. Bignell, Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on Famine in Kherwara District for the month ending the 31st March, 1900.

Private relief.— Kitchen at Kherwara, 351.
Mission relief, 80 in Kherwara; 1,200 in district.
Relief work at Kherwara, 196.

Darbar relief.—Kitchen at Kherwara, 81.

General character of relief works.—Tank, roads, wells.

Condition of people.—Very bad.

Cattle.—Nearly all dead.

Deaths.—131 in Kherwara; very many in district.

Emigration, &c.—Ceased.

Fresh grants applied for.

Annexure 2.

Remarks by Major C. H. Dawson, Assistant Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on Famine in the Kotra (Mewar) District.

1. *Condition of people.*—Bad. Numbers are debilitated and feeble.

2. *Deaths.*—75 deaths in Kotra from dysentery, the effect of starvation and injurious food. 18 deaths have been reported in the district, but correct returns cannot be obtained.

3. *Importation of grain.*—Grain can be imported with some difficulty.

4. *Emigration.*—There is no emigration.

5. *Cattle.*—The cattle are in poor condition, except among the hills, where they are in a fair state. With a view to saving the plough-cattle of the Kotra village, arrangements have been made to feed oxen free of cost to the owners.

6. *Relief works.*—600 Bhils are employed in Jura; 600 Bhils in Panurwa; 180 Bhils in Oghna; 100 Bhils in Kotra.

7. *Rations.*—Man, 12 chittacks maize per diem; woman 8 chittacks maize per diem; children over 7, 6 chittacks maize per diem; children under 7, 4 chittacks maize per diem.

8. *Labour rates other than relief rates.*—Local men able to build receive the value of five annas in grain per diem. Skilled masons receive Udaipuri annas ten per diem.

9. *In poor-houses.*—60 destitute.

10. *On private charity.*—260 children, old women, and cripples.

11. *Water.*—Sufficient in most places.

12. *Fodder.*—Becoming very scarce. Only dry bamboo leaves are obtainable.

13. *Crime.*—Cattle-lifting has increased. Several reports have been received of the robbers having freely used talwars when raiding, causing death in some instances. Unfortunately the thieves generally effect their escape with the cattle over the border. Bhumat cases reported are settled by me at once, and restoration of cattle made or compensation given. The highroad is patrolled by guards of the Mewar Bhil Corps.

The Bhils from Guzerat give much trouble. I have addressed the Political Agent at Sadra on the subject.

14. The only crops were those on the banks of rivers and nullas; the harvest is poor.

No. 209.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2,202 F., dated Abu, the 18th May, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1,877 F., dated the 20th April, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements,* with maps of the Hilly Tracts of Kherwara and Kotra, together with the Mewar Resident's covering letter, No. 1,059, dated 8th May, 1900.

2. The marginal table shows the numbers in receipt of both kinds of relief during the last five months. The tendency for the number to increase has been maintained. The persons on works have increased by 27 per cent., and those helped gratuitously by over one-third. But as the Resident has not yet explained the apparent discrepancies pointed out last month, a comparison of the two sets of figures is not very useful. The Political Superintendent maintains that there has been a decrease in the numbers on relief, so that, as pointed out by Mr. Martindale last month, the figures were probably an under-estimate.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total	Percentage.
1899.				
December ...	765	567	1,332	1·87
1900.				
January ...	1,505	806	2,311	3·25
February ...	2,906	966	3,872	5·45
March	3,254	1,372	4,626	6·51
April	4,152	1,879	6,031	8·5

3. Full details of the numbers on gratuitous relief have not been given for Kotra; but the totals of both tracts have risen. Colonel Bignell says that, in addition to the numbers given in the statement, some 1,700 persons are being cared for by the local missionaries. 640 people are in receipt of gratuitous relief in Kotra. Of these, 160 are inmates of the poorhouse, and 480 children, old women and cripples are said to be supported by private charity.

4. It is curious that, while in Kherwara, the Political Superintendent pronounces the mohwa crop to have been an almost total failure, in Kotra the Assistant Political Superintentent says the outturn has been fair. Grain is being imported freely into Kherwara, but Major Hutton Dawson has some difficulty in getting enough transport for the road from Kohera to Kotra. Ninety-five per cent. of the cattle in Kherwara are stated by Colonel Bignell to have disappeared. The accounts from Kotra are more cheerful, but even there the mortality has been great.

5. It is satisfactory to note that crime has been reduced in Kherwara to normal proportions; cattle-lifting is, however, increasing in Kotra. The rabi crop has been of very little account. The Political Superintendent is of opinion that the banias will help all the cultivators who can furnish any security with funds to purchase seed and cattle. The poorer men will receive grants from charitable funds.

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* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 209.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident in Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1059, dated Udaipur, the 8th May, 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Famine Reports, with the prescribed maps, for the Kherwara and Kotra districts for the month of April, 1900, together with a copy of letter No. 443, dated 3rd May, 1900, from the Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, furnishing the information called for regarding the outturn of the rabi crop and the probable requirements of the people in the way of loans for the purchase of seed and bullocks.

2. As compared with the figures given in the returns for the preceding month, the number of persons under relief show an increase of 506 in Kherwara and 730 in Kotra.

Note.—It is not clear on what Colonel Bignell bases his statement that the numbers have diminished. A comparison of the figures of the two months gives the result noted here.

3. Colonel Bignell expects a large increase in numbers requiring relief during the current month, especially amongst the higher classes through failure of the mohwa crops. To meet this, further funds aggregating Rs. 83,700 have been provided by the Government of India which should be sufficient for all requirements.

4. The measures proposed for the repression of violent crime in these tracts, and in the Dungarpur State, are being given effect to with good results.

Annexure I.

Remarks by Colonel E. D. F. Bignell, Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on Famine in Kherwara District, for month ending 30th April, 1900.

Relief works, tanks, wells, and roads.—Numbers have fallen off owing to large numbers having gone to collect mohwa. The mohwa crop is an entire failure, and the Bhils will return in worse case than before. Crop only six pie in the rupee, but no reports yet received from Guzerat where the Mewar Bhils own large orchards of mohwa trees. Deaths in Kherwara, 139 wanderers from all parts. The heavy pressure will begin of starving quasi-respectable people in 10 days or so when numbers will rapidly go up. Physical condition very bad of all, and prospects as bad as they can be. Cattle up to 95 per cent. dead. Diarrhœa and dysentery very rife. Abandoned children getting very numerous. Grain being imported in large quantities. Emigration *nil*, immigration *nil*, with exception of going and returning mohwa-pickers; crime very much decreased, nearly normal.

Annexure II.

Remarks by Major C. H. Dawson, Assistant Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on Famine in the Kotra (Mewar) District.

1. *Condition of people.*—Bad.

2. *Deaths.*—87 deaths in Kotra from dysentery, the effect of starvation and injurious food.

15 deaths have been reported in the district, but correct returns cannot be obtained.

3. *Importation of grain.*—Grain can be imported, but with some difficulty owing to scarcity of transport.

4. *Emigration.*—There is no emigration.

5. *Cattle.*—The cattle are in very poor condition, except among the hills where they are in a fair state. Great numbers have died from want of nourishment, hundreds have been killed for food.

Plough oxen are fed, free of cost to owner, in Kotra.

6. *Relief works.*—900 Bhils are employed in Jura.
700 „ „ in Panurwa.
160 „ „ in Oghna.
130 „ „ in Kotra.

7. *Rate.*—Men, 12 chittacks maize per diem ; women, 8 chittacks ; children over 7, 6 chittacks ; and under 7, 4 chittacks per diem.

8. *Labour rates other than relief works.*—Local men able to build receive the value of annas five in grain per diem ; skilled masons receive Udaipur annas 10 per diem.

9. *In poorhouse.*—160 destitute.

10. *On private charity.*—480 children, old women, and cripples.

11. *Water.*—Sufficient in most places.

12. *Fodder.*—Very scarce ; only dry bamboo leaves obtainable.

13. *Crime.*—Cattle-lifting has increased. The high road is patrolled by guards of the Mewar Bhil Corps.

Crops.—The Mohwa crop has been fair.

Annexure III.

Letter from the Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, to the Resident in Mewar, No. 443 G., dated the 3rd May, 1900.

With reference to your No. 934 of 28th April, 1900, and in continuation of Famine Return for April, 1900, I have the honour to state that, with the exception of a few patches bearing only an infinitesimal proportion to the usual crop, there was no rabi harvest in the Kherwara district.

2. The people are too impoverished to borrow for the purchase of seed and cattle, and I am making such preparations as my funds will admit to issue cattle and free grain for seed to the poorest.

3. The banias will, I think, meet the requirements of those of any standing. I have most carefully avoided any encroachment on their seed-stores.

No. 210.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2534-*F., dated Abu, the* 18*th June,* 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2202-F., dated the 18th May, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements* of the Hilly Tracts of Kherwara and Kotra received with a covering docket from the Resident, Mewar.

2. The numbers on relief during the last six months are brought together in the marginal table, some of the figures in which relating to previous months have been amended in consequence of information recently furnished by the Political Superintendent. There has been a large decrease on the works of 30 per cent. which is attributed by Colonel Bignell to the cholera panic, but as the Jawas and Para reports have not been received the actual fall has probably not been nearly so great as the figures make out. The above are the two largest relief camps in the Kherwara tract. The following table

Months.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
1899.				
December ...	765	567	1,332	1·87
1900.				
January ...	1,505	806	2,311	3·25
February ...	3,189	966	4,155	5·76
March	3,254	1,372	4,626	6·51
April	4,152	1,879	6 031	8·5
May	2,898	1,576	4,474	6·30

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* Not printed.

shows the numbers during April and May on each work from which returns have been received —

Tract.	Works.	Numbers in April.	Numbers in May.	Increase or Decrease + or −.
1	Kherwara	134	13	—
2	Jawas	1,598	Not received	—
3	Para	269	—	—
4	Nadri	83	381	+ 298
5	Chani	105	124	+ 19
6	Thana	73	97	+ 24
7	Jura	900	1,021	+ 121
8	Panarwa	700	725	+ 25
9	Oghna	160	166	+ 6
10	Kotra	130	250	+ 120
	Total, excluding Jawas and Para...	2,280	2,898	+ 613

If Jawas and Para are excluded there has been an actual rise in numbers of 613 or 26 per cent. Numbers were stationary at Kherwara itself, but on every other work there has been an increase. Colonel Bignell takes a very gloomy view of the situation in the hilly tracts, but his statements are not borne out by his figures, and it is hoped that things are not quite so bad as he represents. Cholera has undoubtedly been very severe, and the panic seems to have affected both the establishment and the workers. In Kotra fortunately the epidemic proved less fatal, except among the emaciated weaklings collected in cantonments. It visited most of the works, but only the skilled labourers absconded.

3. The total figures for persons in receipt of gratuitous relief have also fallen owing to the absence of reports from Jawas and Para. Kherwara and Nadri both show an increase. The fall in Kotra is slight.

The Political Superintendent has shown in his statement the numbers relieved by the Church Missionary Society's agents in the tracts they work in. They have now 3,450 persons on their lists within the limits of the province. The Reverend C. Thompson, one of their well known and deservedly respected members, who had spent many years in the Bhil country, lost his life while at work in one of his cholera camps.

4. The Assistant Political Superintendent from Kotra reports that the transport question is one of great difficulty, and he is doubtful of getting in sufficient supplies to last through the monsoon. Since his report was written I have reason to believe that he has obtained a number of Sirohi camels through the good offices of the Resident of the Western Rajputana States. I have, however, telegraphed to the Resident on this subject, and have suggested the advisability of establishing a mule transport train between Rohera and Kotra. The majority of the cattle in Kherwara are dead, but there is still a fair remnant in Kotra. Bhil raidings have probably reduced their numbers almost as much as starvation. During the month large grants from the Charitable Fund, amounting to Rs. 10,000, were made to the hilly tracts by the Provincial Committee.

5. The following statement shows the numbers relieved in the poor-houses at Kherwara and Kotra, in aid of which your telegram No. 1815-A., dated 26th

April, 1900, sanctioned a grant from Imperial funds of Rs. 5,000. The actual number of persons relieved has been multiplied by the number of days during which they received support :—

Tract.	Units relieved.	
	Actual.	Per cent. on total.
Kherwara	1,498	5·7
Dungarpur	1,581	6 0
Mewar Khalsa	2,201	8·4
Bhumat	15,939	60·8
Kotra and Bhumat	4,960	18·9
Total	26,179	99·8

The Assistant Political Superintendent has not discriminated between the residents in Kotra Cantonments and the outside inhabitants of the Bhumat. It may be assumed however that barely 15 per cent. of the expenditure was spent on the relief of British subjects. From the remarks in Column 13 of the Kotra Statement it would seem as if no share of the Rs. 5,000 had yet been paid to the Assistant Political Superintendent for whom part of the money was intended. An inquiry is being made on this point. The total expenditure on the Kherwara poor-house during the month was Rs. 3,006-5-8, or a daily average of 27·2 pies per head. The similar average in the Kotra institution was only 10·2 pies. Rs. 368-3-8 of the Kherwara expenditure have been debited to the Government grant. British subjects formed 7 per cent. of those relieved in that poor house, and 12·4 per cent. of the total cost has been charged to their support.

Enclosure in No. 210.

Remarks by Colonel E. D. F. Bignell, Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on famine in Kherwara District for month ending the 31st May, 1900.

The works in the Districts have been practically abandoned by the Bhils owing to cholera of unusual severity. I have been unable to get any reports as kamdars and overseers have bolted or are dead. Number of deaths from all causes in Kherwara including cholera 559, exclusive of village bazaar and regiment, these latter being considerable.

I am issuing free rations as far as I am able, but the majority of the Bhils are too frightened to come and take them, and I have no means of conveying grain to the distant valleys and hills where the Bhils have sought refuge. I can only describe the situation in the district during the time 12th to 30th May, as one of absolute panic. Cholera is now abating, and I hope to start works again in a few days. The number of deaths in district have been very exceptionally large. I can get no reports of any kind.

Annexure.

Remarks by Major Charles Hutton Dawson, Assistant Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on Famine in the Kotra (Mewar) District.

(1.) *Condition of the people.*—Bad.

(2.) *Deaths.*—98 deaths in Kotra from dysentery, the effect of starvation and injurious food. 53 deaths have been reported in the District, but correct returns cannot be obtained. Many have died from cholera in poor-house and among the children. The outbreak has been very virulent.

(3.) *Importation of grain.*—Grain is imported with difficulty owing to scarcity of ansport. On this account the chance of getting large supplies in for the monsoon months is small.

(4.) *Emigration.*—There is no emigration.

(5.) *Cattle.*—The cattle are in very poor condition except among the hills, where t hey are in a fair state. Great numbers have died from want of nourishment, hundreds have been killed for food.

Plough oxen are fed free of cost to owners in Kotra.

Cattle apparently in good health and fair condition lie down and die in a few hours; there is no one who can explain the cause. At the same time were it not for the continual "lifting" there would have been a very fair number remaining.

(6.) *Relief works.*—1,021 Bhils employed in Jura.

725 „ „ in Panawara.
166 „ „ in Oghna.
250 „ „ in Kotra.

(7.) *Rate.*—Men 12 chattacks maize per diem, women 8 chattacks, children over 7 years 6, under 7 years 4 chattacks per diem.

Cholera has appeared on most of the works; the workers do not seem to mind, but it is difficult to prevent the masons employed from running away. It is feared that some works must be closed soon for want of grain.

(8.) *Labour rates.*—Local men able to build, receive the value of annas five in grain; skilled masons receive annas ten per diem.

(9.) *Poor-house.*—160 destitute parties are frequently made up and sent out to relief works.

(10.) *Private charity.*—450 children, old women and cripples.

(11.) *Water.*—Sufficient in most places.

(12.) *Crime.*—Abnormal. Raids on cattle by Bhils of Guzerat, Sirohi and Khalsa Mewar are very frequent.

No. 211.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2845 F., dated Abu, the 16th July, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2534 F., dated the 18th June, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statements* of the hilly tracts of Kherwara and Kotra, together with the Resident, Mewar's covering letters Nos. 1727 and 1732 of the 7th July, 1900.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
1899.				
December ...	765	567	1,332	1·87
1900.				
January ...	1,505	806	2,311	3·25
February ...	3,189	966	4,155	5·76
March	3,254	1,372	4,626	6·51
April	4,152	1,879	6,031	8·5
May	4,019	2,542	6,561	9·24
June	4,101	4,264	8,365	11·78

2. The marginal table gives the numbers on relief during the last seven months. As anticipated in my review of the May report the actual decrease in the number on works was not nearly so great as the statistics thus furnished. The following table shows the corrected figures which have been incorporated in the marginal table above.

* Not printed.

Tract.	Works	April.	May.	June.
1	Kherwara	134	134	567
2	Jawas	1,598	734	1,282
3	Para	269	387	358
4	Madri	83	381	79
5	Chaui	105	124	124
6	Thana	73	97	104
7	Jura	900	1,021	782
8	Panarwa	700	725	430
9	Oghna	160	166	225
10	Kotra	130	250	150
	Total	4,152	4,019	4,101

This month there has been a rise in numbers over the whole of Kherwara and a distinct fall in Kotra. Cholera has been eradicated from both tracts except as regards a few sporadic cases.

3. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have risen by two-thirds, and are now higher than those under "works." The largest increase has taken place in the Kherwara, Para and Kotra poor-houses. The after-effects of the cholera epidemic are still felt. The petty chiefs in the Bhumat shut themselves up in their houses, and those petty officials who did not die or run away were only too glad of every excuse to curtail operations. While the panic lasted many of the able-bodied had to be given gratuitous doles, owing to the absence of the subordinate famine staff, and now these people object to resume work. The trouble of again organising an effective relief machinery has been very great. Lieutenant Bruce, Special Famine Officer, has unfortunately been ordered to rejoin his regiment, and I have been obliged to transfer Lieutenant Nicholas from Dungarpore to take his place. Transport is still a great difficulty, to obviate which in some measure I have suggested the establishment of a coolie corps.

4. The following statement shows the numbers relieved in the poor-houses at Kherwara and Kotra which are assisted by a grant of Rs. 5,000 from Imperial funds :—

State, Takurate or District.	Units relieved.	
	Actual.	Percentage on total.
Kherwara	252	·75
Dungarpur	3,819	11·43
Mewar Khalsa (Udaipur) ...	4,600	13·77
Kotra and Bhumat	24,713	74·02
Total	33,384	99·97

The Assistant Political Superintendent has furnished no details of the Kotra expenditure, and it would appear that none of the Government grant was utilised in Kherwara.

Enclosure 1 in No. 211.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, Abu, No. 1732, *dated Udaipur, the 7th July,* 1900.

I have the honour to forward the famine report* for the Kherwara District for the month of June 1900.

2. There is an increase of 657 in the number of relief workers and 1,214 in the number of those in receipt of gratuitous relief. This appears to be due to the disappearance of cholera, and also to the increased severity of the famine owing to the continued absence of rain.

3. During the month only three cases of dakaiti, and one case of an attack upon a Mewar Bhil Corps patrol party have been reported, and crime is now said to have been reduced to its normal state. From this it is evident that the system of sending out men of the Mewar Bhil Corps to patrol the country has proved effective in suppressing crime in the Kherwara District.

4. The Political Superintendent reports that the poor-houses and orphanages at Kherwara are regularly visited by the Medical Officer, Mewar Bhil Corps, but those in the district are too far away to allow of inspection by the medical officer; they are, however, provided with simple medicines.

The institutions at Kherwara are supplied with medical comforts and nourishing food stuffs.

5. No information has been furnished by the Political Superintendent regarding the number of deaths from starvation, grain stocks, emigration, rates of wages, scale of rations, expenditure on relief works and gratuitous relief, and his attention is being called to these points.

6. The statements showing the number of persons relieved in poor-houses, and expenditure incurred during the month do not appear to have been made out correctly, and the remarks contained in paragraph 2 of your letter No. 2535, dated the 18th June 1900, regarding the Government grant of Rs. 5,000 are again being brought to the notice of the Political Superintendent, and revised statements to be drawn up in accordance with your instructions will be called for.

Annexure.

Remarks by Colonel E. D. F. Bignell, Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts Mewar, on famine in Kherwara District, for month ending 30th June, 1900.

The rain still holds off and matters are looking very desperate. We cannot import bullocks till the grass grows, and soon the season for sowing will have passed. The pressure is getting steadily worse, and the Bhils losing heart.

Importation of grain is going on, but cartmen are raising their rates threefold—grain must fall to 6 seers per rupee and under.

The time is at hand when the system of relief works must change to local village works.

Strange to say the mortality is not so heavy as it was, though still very bad

Health of district very bad, though only slight cholera prevails.

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* Not printed.

Enclosure 2 in No. 211.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 1727, *dated Udaipur, the 7th July*, 1900.

I have the honour to forward the monthly famine report* for the Kotra District for the month of June 1900.

2. The number of persons on relief works show a decrease of 575, while those in receipt of gratuitous relief show an increase of 508 as compared with the previous month. The decrease is probably due to the recent cholera epidemic.

3. Crime is reported to be abnormal, and cattle raids by Bhils of Guzerat, Sirohi and the Mewar Khalsa to be very frequent. Only one specific case of crime, however, in which several Guzerat Bhils are alleged to have looted a shop in Umaria, has been reported by Major Hutton Dawson to this office.

4. The prolonged delay in the rains is causing much anxiety, and the distress is now reported to be affecting the non-labouring class.

5. His Highness the Maharana, has granted a further sum of Rs. 300 Udaipuri for the Kotra poor-house.

6. The abstract statement showing the residence of persons relieved in the Kotra Cantonment is submitted, but the other statement required showing the number of persons relieved and expenditure incurred has not been submitted, and has been called for.

Annexure.

Remarks by Major C. Hutton Dawson, Assistant Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, on Famine in the Kotra (Mewar) District.

(1) *Condition of the people.*—Bad.

(2) *Deaths.*—223 deaths in Kotra from dysentery, the effect of starvation and injurious food.

Ten deaths have been reported in the district, but correct returns cannot be obtained.

(3) *Deaths from cholera.*—Cholera has been stamped out in Kotra and only few cases are reported in the district.

(4) *Importation of grain.*—Large stores of grain have been imported.

(5) *Emigration.*—There is no emigration.

(6) *Cattle.*—The cattle are in very poor condition except among the hills where they are in very fair state. Great numbers have died from want of nourishment, hundreds have been killed for food and herds have been lifted.

Rough oxen are fed free of cost to owners in Kotra.

(7) *Relief works.*—782 Bhils employed in Jura.
430 Bhils employed in Panarwa.
225 Bhils employed in Oghna.
150 Bhils employed in Kotra.

(8) *Rate.*—1,587 men 12 chh. maize per diem, women 8 chh., and children over 7, 6 chh., under 7, 4 chh. per diem.

(9) *Works.*—There are 14 works under construction in the district and are all full.

(11) *Poor-house.*—432 destitute.

Parties are frequently made up and sent out to relief works but nearly all return.

(12) *Private charity.*—700 children, old women and cripples.

(13) *Water.*—Sufficient in most places.

(14) *Fodder.*—Grass not obtainable. Dry bomboo leaves and green leaves of peepal and other trees are freely brought for sale so large numbers of Bhils obtain grain from this source.

(15) *Crime.*—Crime is abnormal. Raids on cattle by Bhils of Guzerat, Sirohi and Khalso-Mewar are very frequent.

Bunias shops have been looted in two Pals.

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* Not printed.

No. 212.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated Mount Abu, the 10th May, 1900.

On the 1st May I received charge of the Rajputana Agency, and on the 5th Mr. Martindale left Bombay for England.

2. The accompanying table shows that the numbers in receipt of relief in the Province have risen from 579,519 at the end of March to 619,762 at the end of April. The largest increase (26,000) has been in Ajmer-Merwara, for which no particular reasons have been assigned. Against this increase there has been a decrease of 16,000 in Marwar, attributed partly to an epidemic of cholera which has appeared on some of the works, partly to a small demand for harvest labour where irrigation had produced crops, and partly to a desire on the part of the cultivators to return to their villages to prepare for early sowings in anticipation of the coming monsoon. A curious feature in the administration of famine relief is that, whereas in Ajmer-Merwara an attempted reduction of 25 per cent. in the wage rate based on the 19 chattack scale of ration is considered by the Commissioner to have caused the physical deterioration of the labourers, in Marwar it has been conclusively proved that people who are paid on the 12 chattack scale manage to save money. I confess that it has often occurred to me to question the sufficiency of this small ration, but the evidence on this point of Captain Grant, I.M.S., is convincing. In this connection I may cite also the opinion of one who may be regarded as an independent critic, Mr. Vaughan Nash, travelling in India as correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian," who mentions in a letter to the Famine Commissioner that the condition of the people he saw on the Marwar works was certainly far better than that of those he saw in many parts of the Bombay Presidency—he makes the same remark as to the well-being of the people in Jaipur.

3. During the past month the Marwar Darbar has sent agents with funds to the grazing grounds of Central India to hunt up Marwaris who possess cattle and carts, and help them with money loans. I am now in correspondence with the railway authorities trying to obtain privileged rates for returning emigrants and their stock.

4. As there will be comparatively no plough cattle in Marwar when the first rain falls, a large number of small hand ploughs are being made very cheaply in Jodhpur, which will answer admirably in the light sandy soil which covers the greater part of the State.

5. An orphanage for girls, the first ever instituted in Marwar, has been opened at Jodhpur by the Darbar. Her Highness the Maharani is President. Lady Pratap Singh is Honorary Secretary, and has shown a most practical interest in the work. She left her own house, and with a very few attendants lived in the orphanage for some weeks directing and supervising. The presence there of a lady of her rank and influence has had an excellent effect in popularising the orphanage, and in stimulating the efforts of the officials sent to rescue young girls in the city and in outlying districts. Miss Charlotte Adams, M.D., kindly visits the orphanage and gives medical advice. Other English and Native ladies form the committee.

Sirohi.

6. In Sirohi great strides have been made in the relief organisation during the month. The system on the works has been improved, and is now on a sound basis. More poor-houses have also been opened. The Bhils and Grassias of this State, whose unexpected good behaviour has been one of the features of this famine, have managed to support themselves by collecting and selling wood and grass from the forests. I do not anticipate that they will give any trouble in the few weeks that still intervene before the arrival of the monsoon. The rabi harvest has been disappointing. The crops on the restricted

irrigated area promised well, but the high winds and the late unseasonable showers have spoilt them.

Jaisalmer.

7. In Jaisalmer the numbers on relief are rising slightly. Since the beginning of the famine the mortality among the cattle and camels is estimated at 62 per cent., and among sheep and goats at 43 per cent.

Thanks to the pure air of the desert, and the increasing difficulty of communication as the hot season advances, the State will probably escape the cholera which has done so much harm in Marwar. In the capital of Jaisalmer cholera has hitherto been unknown. The water still holds out in the wells, but is very brackish in places. Imports of food-grains are diminishing in consequence of the great heat, but stocks are believed to be sufficient.

Mewar.

8. The returns from Mewar show a distinct falling off in the numbers on relief, but this is more apparent than real, as last month's figures were found to be exaggerated. The general situation throughout the State shows a marked improvement. The loan granted by the Government of India has had a happy effect, and the measures elaborated by Colonel Thornton, in consulation with His Highness the Maharana, have done much to mitigate distress. Lieutenant Pinney has lately visited the estates of some of the leading nobles, and reports that three out of the sixteen jagirdars of the first rank and one of the second rank have responded to the call of their Chief, and have organised more or less effective systems of works. In the hilly tracts also (both jagir and khalsa) more works and poor-houses have been opened, the wages have been raised to a fair scale, and a workable arrangement for supplying petty local traders readily with grain has been introduced.

Banswara, Partabgarh and Dungarpur.

9. In the smaller States of Banswara, Partabgarh and Dungarpur, serious efforts are being made to cope with distress, but no real success can be achieved until an additional officer arrives to look after the two former States. I have considered the necessity sufficiently urgent to transfer Lieutenant Patterson from Beawar for this duty.

Lieutenant Drummond in Dungarpur is doing very well, but the State requires a great deal of supervision, and his services cannot possibly be spared just now for Banswara and Partabgarh. The Dungarpur Bhils are very much out of hand, and prefer looting to going on works. Grain is selling at only $6\frac{3}{4}$ seers per rupee, and although grain imports have risen from 1,800 maunds in February to 5,500 maunds in April, the feeling of insecurity throughout the State is so great that I am apprehensive as regards the sufficiency of food-stocks for the rainy season. I have addressed the Resident in Mewar on these subjects.

Jaipur.

10. The excellent administration of Jaipur continues, and the Resident reports an improvement in the physical and mental condition of the people in two of the worst districts. Thanks to the energy and personal influence of Mr. Irwin, the cattle have been well cared for from the beginning, and the experiment of feeding them on prickly pear has proved a conspicuous success.

Kishangarh.

11. In Kishangarh the Darbar have already begun to purchase cattle which will be lent to the agriculturists when the monsoon breaks. These purchases have been made in Gwalior, Dholpur, and the trans-Jamna districts,

and if the animals are allowed to remain where they are till the rains come the enterprise shown will be fully rewarded. This State is the first to complain of the embarrassment caused by the bands of returning emigrants. I am consulting with the Famine Commissioner as to the measures to be taken in dealing with this problem.

Tonk and Bundi.

12. The advance made by Tonk and Bundi is hardly less satisfactory than that which has taken place in Mewar.

In Tonk, Mr. Wakefield has established a satisfactory system of remunerative works, and has completely gained the confidence and goodwill of the Darbar. It was with regret, therefore, that I have been obliged to transfer Mr. Wakefield to Mewar, where his services are more urgently required in connection with railway and other relief works.

Captain Younghusband's patience and tact in dealing with the Bundi Darbar have at length been rewarded. The Minister, whose dealings were not always above suspicion, has been dissociated altogether by the Maharao Raja from famine work, and His Highness has taken this department into his own hands.

Lieutenant Haworth, who was specially deputed to Bundi, is now supported by the Darbar, and has been able to reduce the suffering to a narrower limit. His great difficulty, at present, is to save the people in spite of themselves. Many will not attempt to do the ordinary allotted tasks, and some, rather than go on the works, will take their chance of maintaining themselves by begging, and afterwards, in an emaciated condition, claim relief in the poor-house.

Shahpura.

13. There has been a sharp outbreak of cholera in Shahpura (the capital), where, out of 11,000 inhabitants, 153 deaths occurred in the first three or four days.

Alwar.

14. In Alwar there has been a decline in the numbers on relief owing to a reduction of the unduly high wage scale which formerly prevailed. The rabi harvest is said to be about half of the normal—the strong hot winds, just before cutting, have shrivelled the grain in the ear.

15. There is nothing of importance to report from the Eastern States as no accounts of the spring harvest have yet been received.

16. The Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund has sent us further grants from the fund, which are now being allotted to the different States. Mr. Smeaton, the Honorary Secretary, visited Ajmer on the 11th April, where, unfortunately, he was unable to obtain any accurate information in regard to the present condition of Native State famine affairs; he has, however, been good enough to recommend our additional requirements for the favourable consideration of the Committee.

17. Major Dunlop-Smith, the Famine Commissioner, after visiting Ajmer-Merwara and 16 out of the 19 Rajputana States during the course of his cold-weather tour, is now at Abu. The personal insight he has gained into the famine conditions and relief organisations of different parts of the Province, combined with his practical knowledge of famine acquired in Hissar, are most valuable in dealing with many of the difficult questions which come before us.

18. I enclose a statement* showing loans made to Native States and takavi advances granted in Ajmer-Merwara up to the present time, also a table* containing such mortality figures for April as have reached me.

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* Not printed.

No. 213.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated Mount Abu, the 10th June, 1900.

The accompanying famine statement,* which gives the statistics of relief in the province at the end of each of the last seven months, shows that the increase in numbers is steadily maintained. During the past month, in spite of more than one disturbing influence, the numbers have risen by over 4 per cent. to nearly two-thirds of a million. The ratio of increase is less than that recorded in any previous month, but at the end of May thirty thousand more people were in receipt of relief in Rajputana than were returned for the same period in April. Out of 23 reporting centres, 13 have returned a rise in number, 9 a decline, while the figures for Kotra are not available. By far the largest increase has taken place in Jaipur, but there has been a substantial rise also in Bikaner, Bundi, and Ajmer-Merwara. The fall has been heaviest in Marwar, Sirohi, Kotah, and Alwar. At the end of May approximately 5 per cent. of the total population of the province were in receipt of relief.

Bikaner.

In Bikaner the young Maharaja keeps up his keen interest in famine affairs. During the month nearly 6,000 of his subjects have been brought back from different districts of the Punjab, and a large work has been opened close to the Hissar border with a view of checking emigration, and providing for the distressed cultivators in that direction. The Darbar had collected a large number of distressed women belonging to respectable families close to the city. These have now been sent back to their homes with enough money to maintain them for the next two months. The persons in receipt of private charity had increased to such a formidable extent that His Highness himself took up the task of weeding them out and of drafting all able-bodied persons on to the State works. Colonel Vincent, who returned to Bikaner on the 17th May, has visited several works, and reports that the condition of the people is good. So far the State has escaped cholera.

Marwar.

Numbers have again diminished in Marwar. During the second and third weeks of May rain fell in several districts, tempting many of the people on the works to go home. Those who could persuade the Bohras to give them money and seed have sown a certain amount of the coarse pulses and "jethi" bajra which ripens early. But the chief cause of the decline was the panic which the cholera gave rise to in the end of April and the early days of May. This disorganized one or two of the larger works, and although the petty works administered by civil agency suffered to a less extent than those under the Public Works Department, the dislocation was quite as great. The patience and energy of the Engineers and of Captain Grant, I.M.S., were tried to the utmost, but eventually the disease was stamped out and confidence was restored. In last month's report I mentioned that the misgivings at one time felt as to the sufficiency of the ration given on the Marwar works had been removed by convincing medical testimony. The ability of the people to save some small portion of it is now corroborated by the independent inquiries of Captain Bremner, R.E., Special Famine Officer, who has a close acquaintance with the various works and with the famine labourers. His inquiries, spread over a lengthy period, show that for the first few weeks after coming on to a work, people spend all their wages on food ; but when they find their strength returning, and when a good meal has lost its novelty, they put by something out of their scanty earnings. Many no doubt mix the bark of trees and other natural products with their food, but this is no uncommon practice in this region,

* Not printed.

even in times of plenty. And the undoubted fact remains that at all centres of relief, not even excepting Pali, which is kept for the most reduced of the new arrivals, the condition of the people improves from week to week. In this connection I am again able to quote independent unofficial evidence, which will be found in the issue of the "Times of India," dated 26th May, 1900. The high death-rate in the Marwar Camps which, with the inadequate Medical Staff available, caused me so much anxiety a month ago has rapidly subsided. The deaths in the purely famine hospitals have fallen from over 6,000 in April, by 56 per cent., to 2,680 in May. Small-pox is less prevalent, and the rise in the night temperatures has reduced the number of dysentery and diarrhœa cases.

There are still just under ten thousand persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in poor-houses. The other institutions reported in previous communications are also open. The Girls' Orphanage, which I described last month, has added to its rolls, while the active interest taken in this institution by Lady Pratap Singh has had happy effects.

The importance of the cattle question has never been lost sight of in Marwar. The Darbar Agents have been busy all the month in hunting up Marwari emigrants in Central India, and advancing money for their return journey.

The authorities in charge of the home for starving animals at the capital have been encouraged to expand their operations.

On the whole, the condition of Marwar is more satisfactory than I could have ventured to anticipate. Food grains continue to pour into the country, and the drinking water-supply continues to hold out in a surprising way. Crime has decreased especially in the Malani pergunnah, and an outbreak of dakaiti in Godwar was successfully checked by Lieutenant Menzies. The people are in good heart. Astrologers are unanimous in their opinion that the "Akhatij" omens foretell favourable rains, while the cultivators see in the ants' efforts to unload their subterranean stores of grain signs of a coming good harvest.

JAISALMER.

The numbers in Jaisalmer continue to rise slowly, but they have not yet reached even the moderate total which the local authorities expected during the worst period of the famine. The probability is that no inconsiderable number of the more distressed emigrated to Sind and Bhawalpur just before the great heat began. Their friends and relatives have treated them with consistent kindness in both of these tracts. In fact, of Jaisalmer alone it may be said that emigration has afforded substantial relief in this famine. Rain fell in the central and eastern pergunnahs during the month, and has there temporarily mitigated the distress arising from an insufficient water-supply. Ploughing and sowing operations have been started in different parts of six pergunnahs, and where no cattle are available the ploughs and harrows are being worked by men.

Cholera has failed to find an entry into Jaisalmer, which probably is as healthy at the present time as any part of India.

Prices show a slight tendency to rise, but are still below the scale obtaining in the more isolated hilly tracts of Mewar.

SIROHI.

Last month I was able to give your Excellency a good account of the improved relief administration of Sirohi. This month I regret to say that nowhere in Rajputana has the disorganisation caused by the cholera been so great. The wave of infection travelling east swept across the State from Jodhpur into Mewar, gathering virulence in its course. Its effects were felt most on the two large tank projects at the capital and Rohera. The panic among the workers and the decrepit inmates of the poor-house was

so great as to cause a general stampede, and numbers fell by 42 per cent. On the last day of May there were only 6,000 relief units as compared with over 10,000 in April. This calamity has been most discouraging to the Maharao and his Executive Engineer, Mr. Knight, both of whom, assisted by Captain Grant, I.M.S., did their best by their personal exertions to restore confidence.

Unless the rains are unduly delayed there is reason to fear that the large dams now being constructed by famine labour at Rohera and Sirohi may not be sufficiently advanced to withstand the monsoon floods, although no efforts are being spared to strengthen the most vulnerable points.

An additional poor-house was opened at Rohera to meet the growing demand for gratuitous relief, and a similar institution has been started at Erinpura in the extreme north of the State. A heavy fall of rain has occurred and the people here and there have begun the cultivation of the earlier kharif staples. The supply of drinking water, I am glad to say, is sufficient. Towards the end of April and beginning of May the import trade slackened considerably. It has, however, now revived. The satisfactory feature of this month's progress has been an improvement in the condition of the cattle. The camel disease mentioned last month was fortunately stamped out before much harm was done.

MEWAR.

The numbers on works in Mewar have risen by some three per cent., while the names on the gratuitous lists have decreased by eight per cent. The total number of units on relief is still below the high figures of March, but here also cholera has played sad havoc with the organisation. The disease found a congenial home in the insanitary capital, where the recorded deaths alone show that five per cent. of the city and suburb population perished in the first fortnight. Even the palace was not spared. Of the six personal servants in attendance on the Maharana's son five succumbed. The latest reports show that the epidemic is abating. The poor-house has suffered a good deal, but since the site was changed the death-rate has fallen to nearly normal. There was a severe outbreak on the railway works at Lambia. Out of 14,095 relief units over 800, or 6 per cent., died in a few days, but the plucky efforts of Mr. Billings, the Engineer in charge, prevented a panic.

In Mewar the month has been chiefly remarkable for the development of relief operations in the jagir areas on the lines laid down by Colonel Thornton. Lieutenant Pinney has visited the estates of several of the leading nobles and has persuaded them to execute agreements to carry out works and to allow their operations to be supervised by the Darbar's Central Famine Officers. Five of the nobles of the first and four of the second rank have signed these agreements. The lands of these nine Thakurs comprise the worst affected part of the jagir area. Although tardily introduced, these measures will prevent much of the suffering and mortality which would otherwise have taken place had the less energetic policy been continued which obtained until Colonel Thornton's arrival in March.

The numbers on the works in Kherwara and Kotra were rapidly increasing when cholera appeared. It was of a virulent type and spread very rapidly over the barracks, works, poor-houses, and even the orphanages and children's kitchens maintained by English ladies and missionaries. To add to the people's troubles the Mohwa crop on which the Bhils so much depend largely failed in Kherwara.

I would desire to mention to Your Excellency the name of Mrs. Hutton Dawson, who, since November last, has been unostentatiously engaged in saving the lives of women and children at Kotra from private funds which she collected in England and India. She has now on her rolls 524 women and children. She and her husband, Major Hutton Dawson, Second in Command of the Mewar Bhil Corps, are the only Europeans in Kotra, and every issue of food is superintended by Mrs. Dawson.

Cholera has claimed many victims among the objects of her charity, and nowhere has the "white man's burden" been more faithfully borne than in this isolated corner of the empire over which the shadow of death has been impending for so many weary months.

Dungarpur.

My recent official letters to the Foreign Secretary have explained the extent to which violent crime prevails among the large and turbulent Bhil population of this State and the difficulties against which the present Assistant Resident has to contend. Since the recent appointment of an additional Assistant Resident, Lieutenant Drummond has been able to give his undivided attention to Dungarpur, and the numbers on relief have more than doubled. This is due to the confidence inspired by regular daily payments, and to the fact that all applicants for works are freely taken on. Several of the Bhil villages, however, persist in maintaining an aggressive and defiant attitude, which may necessitate further punitive measures. Lieutenant Drummond's troubles have been aggravated by want of drinking water and a bad cholera epidemic to which his head clerk and the State Engineer fell victims.

Imports have again fallen off, and I arranged with the Military Authorities in Mhow for the aid of mule transport, but the local officers reported that the assistance is not needed.

Banswara.

This is the most out of the way, backward, and conservation State in Rajputana, and until Lieutenant Patterson's arrival famine relief had received but scant attention, The Maharawal, who shuts himself in his palace and affects great attention to religion, had never even heard of the Boer War.

The mortality from cholera has here also been heavy. The Resident reports that by emigration, cholera, and disease, brought on by innutritious food, at least one quarter of the population, which consists chiefly of Bhils, has disappeared.

Lieutenant Patterson has now reorganised the relief administration, provided for a steady grain supply, and arranged to give relief to all who apply for it. The numbers on relief have increased since his arrival by nearly one quarter.

Pertabgarh and Kushalgarh.

In Pertabgarh things are much better. The Resident has recently visited the State and found that the relief given is sufficient. Grain is plentiful, and the Bhils are quiet and well behaved.

The small chiefship of Kushalgarh is also fairly prosperous. The Rao takes a personal interest in his administration, the relief works are looked after, and the food stocks are sufficient.

Kota Agency.

The important event of the month in the Kotah State has been the financial crisis which has developed. Pending the result of the correspondence with the Government of India regarding the extent to which Government can assist them, the Darbar have been forced to borrow eight lakhs in the open market, and report that they have been forced to somewhat curtail relief operations. Cholera has reached Kotah, but so far appears to be of a mild type.

There is a steady increase in the numbers on relief in Jhalawar. The arrival of a Special Famine Officer, Lieutenant James, of the 26th Baluchistan Regiment, has lightened the duties of the Political Agent and the State Engineer.

Shahpura.

The disastrous effect of the cholera panic in the chiefship of Shahpura is apparent from the fall in the numbers on relief by 27 per cent. to 2,370. The outbreak was sudden and severe, and that it was quickly subdued is due to the good sense and energy of the Raja Dhiraj, who unquestioningly carried out the recommendations of the Political Agent and Agency Surgeon. The railway embankment is nearly finished, and thanks to Mr. Old, the Public Works Department Supervisor, who voluntarily accepted the charge of the famine organisation in addition to his professional duties, the work has been carried out economically and efficiently.

Tonk.

There has been a sharp fall of 24 per cent. in the numbers on the Tonk relief works for which cholera is again responsible, but at the same time the numbers in receipt of purely gratuitous relief have nearly doubled. The Tonk Darbar loyally accepted Captain Younghusband's advice as to the disinfection of wells and other sanitary precautions, but certain influential Hindu merchants and money-lenders in the city combined to protest, and closed their shops. The prompt manner in which the situation was dealt with is described in Mr. Wakefield's last fortnightly diary, a copy of which forms the second appendix to this letter. The simplicity and efficacy of the methods adopted by that officer are in striking contrast to the elaborate procedure prescribed by law for dealing with similar cases in British India. The purchase of cattle which was taken up by the Darbar, on Mr. Wakefield's initiative, has been slowly going on, and the charitable grants will be largely utilized for this purpose. The chief anxiety at present is whether the supply of animals will equal the demand.

Lieutenant Jacob has shown much resolution and common sense in dealing with the severe outbreak of cholera at Nimbahera, and has succeeded in checking the epidemic.

Bundi.

The accounts from Bundi are not very encouraging. The Darbar are reaping a harvest of death and disease, which is largely the result of their previous apathy and mal-administration. Captain Younghusband has written melancholy accounts of his visits to the poor-houses, and it is evident that Lieutenant Haworth, the young Famine Officer, has had during the last two months one of the most depressing charges in Rajputana. Bundi has never possessed any qualified medical staff, and by Captain Younghusband's advice the State has at last engaged the services of a retired Assistant Surgeon. There is still much to be done. Cholera has almost disappeared, but the people have only just just begun to realise that the administration is willing to help them in their distress. The majority of the poor-house inmates arrive in a most pitiable condition, yet many of the worst cases recover, thanks mainly to Lieutenant Haworth's unceasing efforts in their behalf.

The charge of the Haraoti and Tonk Agency has been as heavy and responsible a task as has fallen to the lot of any officer in Rajputana during the past twelve months, but Captain Younghusband has proved himself fully equal to the occasion, and is deserving of the greatest credit.

Jaipur.

The relief units in Jaipur have risen by 56 per cent. to 126,964. The largest proportionate increase has taken place among persons in receipt of gratuitous relief. As usual the programme of the administration is well ahead of the requirements of the people. Owing to favourable showers in parts of Shekhawati numbers of relief workers went to their homes to sow early bajra.

The cattle camp close to the capital is slowly expanding, and the Darbar are buying up cattle in foreign territories. Following the lead of Jodhpur, they

are supplying hand ploughs in those tracts where the soil is light and agricultural stock deficient.

The condition of the people is good, and there has been no general epidemic of cholera.

KISHANGARH.

In Kishangarh the famine administration is proceeding as satisfactorily as it has done all along. With the help of an officer of the Geological Department marble and mica quarries have been opened, which provide a fresh field for famine labour. More cattle are being purchased, and the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, has moved the Dholpur Darbar to allow the new purchases to remain on their present grazing grounds until the rains break. The numbers on relief have slightly increased.

ALWAR.

In Alwar a much needed reduction in the famine wage has driven people with private resources off the works. The result is a net reduction of 24 per cent.

Agricultural operations have been resumed, but the mortality among the cattle is increasing.

EASTERN STATES.

In Bhartpur the numbers on relief fell slightly during May, but over 11,000 labourers were employed on the extension of the irrigation scheme which Mr. Devenish has been gradually developing, and which has done so much to save this State the worst effects of famine.

During the month the Karauli Darbar have reported for the first time that water in the hilly tracts is running short. Fodder is deficient and the cattle are losing condition.

Dholpur is happy in having no famine history to record.

AJMER-MERWARA.

The numbers still mount up in Ajmer-Merwara. The May total exceeds that of April by over 2,000. Cholera swept through the South of Ajmer and the urban areas of Ajmer and Beawar, but the Merwara works escaped. The leading features of the administration in May have been an increase in the famine wage scale in Ajmer and the maintenance of the high death rate. Cholera is responsible for over 1,000 of the recorded deaths, which might have been fewer but for the caste prejudices which interfered with the prompt disinfection of wells.

The attitude of the grain dealers on the works is unsatisfactory, and the efforts to bring them under proper control have not yet proved successful.

GENERAL.

I would record my gratitude to the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for generously raising the Rajputana grants to Rs. 12,55,000. Of this sum two lakhs have been specially allotted by the Central Committee to Ajmer-Merwara. I have ventured to ask for further aid and to request the Committee to allow the Provincial Committee to apportion the money between the Native States and the British districts, as it is very desirable that all should share alike according to the measure of their requirements.

The munificent gift of 11,000 maunds of rice by Sir Bir Shamsher Jung, Prime Minister of Nepal, has aroused much interest in different parts of Rajputana.

The arrangements for the relief of returning emigrants alluded to in last month's report are progressing satisfactorily. Depôts have been established at convenient distances along the main lines of communication between Rajputana and Central India and the trans-Jumna tracts, where food will be obtainable by man and beast to enable them to struggle back to their homes in time to take advantage of the monsoon rains. In most cases the staff will be provided by the Darbars, while the expenditure on food and fodder will be charged to the Charitable Relief Fund grants. The cost will not be heavy, and no other form of relief is more urgently required just now.

Your Excellency will have gathered from the foregoing narrative some idea of the dislocating effect of the cholera outburst over so large a part of the province. In at least 10 States the epidemic subjected the famine organisation to a most severe strain, which was met with much courage and skill by all the British officers engaged. In this connection I record with deep regret the death of Colonel Adams, I.M.S., my Administrative Medical Officer, of whom it may be fitly said that he laid down his life for the people among whom he had laboured for so many years.

The list of honours which was recently published has given general satisfaction, and on behalf of the various State officials and officers in Rajputana, I venture to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to Your Excellency for the generous recognition of work done in and for the province.

Annexure.

Copy of Narrative Progress Report of Famine Relief Operations in the Tonk State, during the 1st half of May, 1900.

At the end of last month the numbers receiving relief in this State were :—

—	Number.
On works	12,004
In poor-houses	2,239
Total	14,243

They now stand at :—

—	Number.
On works	12,672
In poor-houses	2,948
Total	15,620

The increase would have been very much greater, but cholera broke out on the works in the Nimbahera pergunnah, and hundreds of people left. Practically all the remunerative works, such as tanks, undertaken in the several pergunnahs of the State, will, I am glad to say, be completed before the rains break.

In the home pergunnah of Tonk there are 3,700 people employed on the new railway embankment between Tonk and Chowke on the Jaipur border, and at the present rate of progress this entire length will be completed by the 15th of June next. Both on works and in poor-houses things are running very smoothly.

On works all applicants are admitted; the piece-work system has been in force since the beginning, and the rates are so fixed that an individual can by fairly exerting himself earn enough to feed himself generously. This is done by constantly checking the outturn of work for male unit and fixing the rate so that a low average outturn can command sufficient to buy 16 chittaks of grain. The strong man requiring more can earn more by working harder. In the poor houses in Tonk all applicants are admitted. In addition vagrants in the city are arrested and brought to the poor-houses, but three classes have been formed :—

Class A.—Permanently infirm and young children.

Class B.—Temporarily infirm (those run down physically).

Class C.—Able-bodied relatives of inmates.

On first arrival the people are sorted accordingly. Those fit for class A receive permanent residence tickets. Those fit for class B get term tickets. For example, a weak being arrives. The officer in charge decides that he requires a week's or fortnight's feeding. He is given a term ticket accordingly, and at the end of his term is sent on to suitable work if fit; if not, his term is increased. In this way many hundreds of weak beings have been passed through the poor-houses and are now earning a livelihood on works. Class C individuals are not fed; they go out daily and earn their living on works, simply receiving a ticket authorising them to live with their relatives in the poor-houses.

Of the five thousand rupees received as the first instalment from the Charitable Relief Fund, Rs. 1,500 have been sent to Nimbahera, Rs. 1,500 to Perawa, Rs. 800 for Tonk and Rs. 500 to Chobra, where the necessity for a poor-house has arisen now. A balance of Rs. 1,700 remains. This money will be spent in providing medical comforts, blankets, clothes and in supplementing the State ration. I would strongly recommend that the bulk of the charitable grant for this State be spent on the agriculturists, by helping them to procure bullocks and seed. I would also point out that the sum intended for this State should be put at its disposal at once before it is too late to make good use of it.

In addition to the outbreak in Nimbahera, cholera has now declared itself in Tonk and Aligarh. Precautionary measures were taken in Tonk at the end of last month as reported by me. On the 6th of this month the bannias closed their shops in protest. As they would not listen to reason and were beginning to imagine they ruled the roost, the ring leaders were arrested, marched through the town in irons and locked up, troops being posted in the streets. The shops were opened the same evening, and, to assert authority, were by orders kept open all night. There has been no trouble since, in fact permanganate of potassium is now freely put into the wells, a thing they would not hear of at first. There have been very few cases of cholera in Tonk itself so far, amongst others there were two fatal cases of close relations of His Highness the Nawab. I visited the Aligarh pergunnah on the 11th, and during the course of one of my inspections discovered a man with cholera on the road near a village. I gave him chlorodyne at once, but he was too far gone, and died. On making enquiries I found cholera was prevalent in two villages close to one another. An investigation on the spot revealed the fact that infection was brought by a Hindu inhabitant of one of these villages called Ganta in Kotah territory. He took ill on the day of his return and died the next night. After this there were several cases in the village, some terminating fatally and others recovering. It then broke out on a tank work on which the inhabitants of this village were working with the people of the next village, and in this way it was conveyed to the other village, where several cases also occurred.

I established a cordon round these two villages and segregated the cholera cases in huts outside, putting the Hospital Assistant from Aligarh in charge. On the 14th when returning to work I found the disease had been stamped out of one village, and that only three cases remained in hospital at the other one, and as they had been attacked about four days previously and were still alive and comparatively cheerful, I conjecture they will recover and the epidemic cease altogether. There may be a recrudescence, and I have issued instructions that the cordon must not be relaxed until ten days after the last case.

A tiger in Aligarh took to eating famine labourers. He accounted for about four people who had gone into the hills to collect grass and berries. It was my pleasant duty to put an end to his uncharitable tastes. I bagged him on the 12th.

In anticipation of the approaching rains cattle are being purchased for cultivators. This ought to have been done some time ago, because, owing to the widespread demand, prices have risen considerably now. Arrangements for money advances to cultivators for seed and other agricultural necessities have also been made. In a Native State it is even more difficult than in British territory to ensure the money reaching the cultivator intact, and, secondly to see that the cultivator uses it all for agricultural purposes.

In consequence it has been arranged to give the money through and on the responsibility of the "Bhoras" (Mussalman bannias), who will distribute in the presence of tahsildars. The "Bhora" having a personal interest in the transaction, and being essentially a grain dealer with his prosperity dependent on the produce of the soil (he is not a bannia in the ordinary sense of the word) will take care that money advanced is rightly spent.

As I have been transferred to Mewar, and this is my last report, I would take the opportunity of cordially thanking Captain Younghusband whose sympathetic support has made it a pleasure to work in this agency. I would also thank His Highness the Nawab, the Prime Minister and State officials employed on famine work for the help they have rendered me.

G. E. WAKEFIELD.

No. 214.

Letter from the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated Mount Abu, the 10th July, 1900.

The statement* which forms an appendix to this letter shows a still further increase in the numbers on relief in Rajputana. The grand total has risen by 26,520. The increase is confined to 11 States and the Ajmer-Merwara district. In six States there has been an appreciable fall. Elsewhere there has been little change.

BIKANER.

2. In Bikaner the numbers on the relief works have actually fallen off, but there has been a great increase in the various classes relieved gratuitously, so that the grand total has risen by 8 per cent. A large number of distressed people have been brought back from the Punjab, and many cultivators and farm labourers have returned of their own accord from Sind and Bhawalpur in anticipation of the monsoon. The majority of the former were placed on gratuitous relief in separate camps. Unfortunately, cholera has at last made its appearance. It first broke out in a comparatively small camp in the north of the State, which had been established for the people who had been deported from the Punjab, who very probably brought the germs of the disease with them. It then spread to the railway construction works, where the platelaying had to be stopped, and afterwards to the large famine camp at Gajner. The cholera was not of a virulent type, and more than half of the cases recovered. The executive authorities were everywhere equal to the occasion, and there was no appearance of panic. The great difficulty on the majority of the works has been the shrinkage of the water supply. A new pumping engine was set up during the month. This makes a total of four now at work by day and night, but they are scarcely able to keep pace with the people's requirements. His Highness

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* Not printed.

the Maharaja and Major Robinson, I.M.S., have continued to make frequent inspections of the various camps, and have closely supervised their working.

MARWAR.

3. The numbers on relief have fallen still further in Marwar, and cholera, I am glad to say, has disappeared from all the districts except Milani. There the disease still lingers at Barmer, the capital, but is of a mild type. It has now visited every one of the large relief camps in turn, and the fact that barely 600 persons out of a total of 80,000 are recorded as having been attacked, speaks highly for the efficiency of the administration. The two chief measures taken to combat the epidemic were a free use of permanganate of potash and strong guards over all the sources of water supply. The workers are in good condition, and quite ready for field labour as soon as the monsoon breaks. Those whom the rain showers in May tempted back to their villages have suffered cruel disappointment. The bajra and coarser pulses germinated well, and for 10 days or a fortnight promised favourably. But as each day passed without rain, the hot winds increased in strength, and practically none of these crops on which so many hopes were placed will reach maturity. They may, however, be of use in supplementing the dry unnutritious fodder the surviving cattle are struggling to maintain life upon. Thanks to the little rain in May, the water supply is holding out fairly well. On some parts of the railway line, however, Mr. Home finds much difficulty in keeping his engines going.

Nearly 10,000 emigrants have been railed back to the State, and over 4,000 persons with 3,000 cattle have struggled back by road. The people are very grateful for the help organised for them on their way, and at Ajmer, Beawar, and Jaipur they found grass and straw which the forethought of the Jodhpur Darbar had provided for them. The cattle returning from Malwa are in excellent condition.

The character and scope of the relief measures are much the same as before, but in the north-east of the State there has been an extension of tank work. The tanks are only drinking reservoirs, and this branch of famine work is very popular with the people. The works under the Department of Public Works and gratuitous relief at the chief centres are on the whole admirably administered, but there is only too good reason to believe that in the smaller poorhouses in the outlying districts the lower castes are neglected.

Private charity in the hands of the richer traders appears to be as active as ever. In many places the Mahajans are helping the general scheme of relief by sharing the expenses of the poorhouses with the Darbar or by employing people in building work. Indigenous charity is not always discriminating or effective, but in many cases the efforts of individuals are shown to be both wise and practical. The poorhouse in Nana, for instance, owes its origin to Sikria Mahsukji, the leading banker. It is well managed by the local Hospital Assistant, while the chief expense is borne by the founder who has recently also opened a refuge for cattle.

Prices have been surprisingly steady during the whole of June. The long delay in the arrival of the rains is, however, now beginning to tell.

Prices show a tendency to rise, and the minds of the Brahmins are disturbed.

JAISALMER.

4. I regret to have to inform Your Excellency that cholera has at last found its way into Jaisalmer. As far as we know the germ has never before succeeded in crossing the desert to the capital. A marriage party from Marwar is now responsible for its introduction. The disease attacked all the works in and round the city, causing a sad panic, and in a few days the numbers on relief had fallen to one quarter of the previous total. Cholera could not have appeared at a more inopportune time. The Dewan, Rao Bahadur Jaggiwan Jiwan, who has proved himself a capable admininistrator, had just left on account of ill-health on a year's furlough, the emigrants were beginning to return from Sind

and Bhawalpur, and the measures which had been undertaken to extend cultivation and develop agriculture were progressing satisfactorily. Sir Bir Shamsher's present of rice from Nepal has reached the railway terminus at Balmer, but the difficulty is to transport it to the capital. On his way to his native home in Cutch, the Dewan visited Abu and told me that the few emigrants who had returned to their villages were in better condition than those who had remained in Jaisalmer. The great majority of the emigrants have no intention of leaving their present quarters until they are sure the monsoon has actually set in.

Sirohi.

5. Cholera has practically ceased in Sirohi, and the numbers on works have more than doubled, the total being equal to that recorded in April. The poor-houses also are more crowded than ever and most difficult to control. As the people pick up strength they are drafted on to light labour at some relief work, but the majority return. In some cases deported inmates have rejoined the poorhouse at Abu before their escort down the hill had time to get back.

The Abu hill population are very difficult to deal with. The Loks refuse to do steady work and lose caste if they go to the poorhouse, while the Bhils and Grassias, who make a living by selling wood and grass, often neglect their children in order to attract sympathy.

A daily dole of grain is given at the poorhouse to *bonâ fide* day labourers—500 to 600 in number—from private charity, Captain Grant, I.M.S., has lately visited all the Sirohi works, and reports that except at Chandela at the foot of the Abu range, the workers are in good condition. At Chandela and in the other camps the intense heat has told heavily on the people. The experiment was tried of night work on the Sirohi tank and the ghat section of the Pindwara-Sirohi road, but did not answer. At Abu road, where the Rajputana-Malwa Railway Company have a considerable European staff, well meant but indiscriminate alms-giving has caused some demoralisation in the neighbouring poorhouses, as the inmates naturally preferred this mode of relief to being under any sort of control or discipline. This has now been stopped. At the same time strict orders have been reiterated that under no circumstances is any applicant for relief to be refused admission to a poorhouse.

The surviving cattle in Sirohi have deteriorated not a little during the month as the rains continue to hold off. Camels are keeping up their strength, and a certain number have been usefully employed in carrying grain into the hilly tracts of Mewar.

Mewar.

6. The returns for June show that the number of persons in receipt of relief of all kinds in Mewar has risen by 22 per cent., but this is largely accounted for by the inclusion for the first time in the returns of labourers in the Bara-Marwar Railway camps. It was only discovered a few weeks ago that this branch of relief, owing to some misapprehension, has never been taken into account by the Darbar in their periodical reports. For the last six months, therefore, the total number of persons shown on relief in Mewar has been from 7,000 to 15,000 below the real aggregate. In consequence of the exhaustion of Rs. 2,42,500 provided for this work by the Darbar, Mr. Billings, the Engineer in charge, has had to break up his camps. I am doing my utmost to ensure that all the dismissed labourers shall find employment elsewhere. The Maharana has undertaken the responsibility of their maintenance. His Highness is well intentioned but badly served by his subordinates, and the distress in Mewar, especially among the Bhils, creates greater anxiety than in any other part of Rajputana.

Cholera has died out almost everywhere. With the disappearance of the panic it caused, the reprehensible inaction on the part of some of the Jagirdars has also vanished. The State poor-houses are now admitting applicants from non-Khalsa villages, and strict accounts are being kept of the money spent on their support with a view to its ultimate recovery. As this becomes known, it

will prove another incentive to the Jagirdars to take action on their own account.

The general policy of the Mewar famine administration during June appears to have been to encourage the cultivating classes to leave the works for their homes. The Resident reports that over one lakh of rupees (local currency) has been distributed in the shape of advances for seed and cattle. In the jagir estates the same policy has been pursued by the leading Thakurs, giving guarantees to the local money-lenders for the repayment of loans to their tenants. Crime has increased slightly, but excepting in the Bhil tract on the extreme south towards Banswara, the State has been remarkably free from lawlessness. The cattle have suffered from the prolonged drought as much as human beings, and few of those in existence will be fit for the plough until their strength is recuperated by an abundance of fodder. The local charitable committee have kindly taken up the cattle-supply question, and are in treaty with a Jhansi firm for 2,000 bullocks. Grain continues to pour in by the railway, but transport beyond Udaipur is very hard to obtain. The scarcity of food in the hilly ranges between Udaipur and Kherwara known as the "Mugra" is painfully apparent from the increasing number of starving Bhils who are flocking to the capital. I have suggested to the Resident the possibility of forming a coolie transport corps to carry grain to the more inaccessible tracts. The scheme presents many difficulties, but, if feasible, should ensure a more or less steady supply of grain to out-of-the-way people, and at the same time provide useful employment in the rainy season.

The after-effects of the cholera visitation in the hilly tracts are still very mischievous. During the epidemic the petty Chiefs in the hilly tracts, of which Colonel Bignell is the Political Superintendent, shut themselves up in their houses, and their underlings in charge of relief operations either died or ran away. The derangement was complete, and during June, Lieutenant Bruce, the Special Famine Officer, has been constantly on tour, trying hard to reorganise the old arrangements. While the panic lasted, Lieutenant Bruce, owing to the absence of any staff, was forced to feed many of the workers gratuitously, and now that the works are re-opened he finds that these people strongly object to being again put to dig and build. His efforts are further complicated by the tendency of these petty Chiefs' servants to cut down the rations as soon as his back is turned. In one case—the Para tank—he found no rations had been issued for eight days, and the work was almost deserted. I much regret that this young officer who has done very creditably should have been recalled to military duty by the exigencies of the war in China. I have applied to the Foreign Secretary for another officer, and earnestly trust that one may soon be sent. Meanwhile, as a temporary measure, we are to have the assistance of Lieutenant Lennox, the Adjutant of the Mewar Bhil Corps at Kherwara.

In the Kherwara district crime has decreased to almost normal proportions, but in Kotra it is increasing. Major Hutton Dawson, the Assistant Political Superintendent at Kotra, reports that, with the help of camels kindly procured for him by the Sirohi Darbar, he has stored enough grain to supply the people until October. In Kherwara, 50 odd miles distant from Udaipur by a bad and hilly road, the problem is more difficult. I endeavoured to obtain the assistance of transport camels and mules from the military authorities, but none are available. Happily, the Resident at the last moment reports that he hopes to be able to hire camels from Nimach. We have lately been in communication with the Famine Relief Committee organised at Amritsar by the Church Missionary Society on behalf of the Bhils, and have requested the missionaries of various denominations working on both sides of the Rajputana-Bombay border to assist us with their information. So far it has not been easy to ascertain from these gentlemen the approximate mortality and distress or the nature and scope of the relief, which the occasion demands, in any defined area for which any particular local authorities are responsible. The requests of the local missionaries for such assistance as the Political Superintendent and his Assistants are in a position to give, have been freely responded to. But the operations of official and private charity have alike been hampered by the difficulty of communications and a dearth of efficient supervisors. The death of the Revd. Mr. Thomson, of the

Church Missionary Society, from cholera, is an irreparable loss to the Bhils, among whom he had laboured for many years, and whose confidence he had completely won.

Dungarpur.

7. The news from Dungarpur this month is better. Cholera and the resulting derangement of relief operations are things of the past. During May the numbers on relief doubled, and in June they have increased by 150 per cent.

For the first time the different branches of relief have been thoroughly organised by Lieutenant Drummond, the Assistant Resident, and Lieutenant Nicolas, the Famine Officer, with the aid of two Native officers whose services have been lent by the Bombay Army, and who appear to be capable and energetic men. The non-commissioned officers and men of the Mewar Bhil Corps have also given valuable help.

The punishment recently inflicted on the Mandav Pal by Colonel Bignell and a detachment of his corps has had a very salutary effect, and the capture of one of the two truculent Gametis of another Bhil village who refused to come in, has further brought the evil-doers to their bearings. The people moreover now know that they can obtain relief for the asking, and crime has shrunk within narrower limits. Apart from the gradual establishment of law and order and the rapid expansion of relief measures, the chief feature of the month in Dungapur has been the introduction of sufficient grain to last through the rains. The local dealers being either unable or unwilling to guarantee the import of adequate food supplies, the Assistant Resident was authorised to undertake the duty himself on behalf of the State. Enough grain has now reached Udaipur to feed for three months all in receipt of State relief in Dungarpur. The grain will be gradually moved up *viâ* Kherwara as transport animals become available. The Assistant Resident is also purchasing cattle, and has made preparations for the issue of taccavi loans and grants from the charitable funds.

I regret to say the town of Dungarpur and the country round are suffering greatly from insufficient drinking water, and, unless rain comes soon, the outlook will be serious. Given a fair rainfall there should be little further cause for anxiety in the State.

Banswara.

8. The numbers on relief have again largely increased, showing that relief has been efficiently organised, and accounts generally are as encouraging as those from Dungarpur. During the last six weeks Lieutenant Patterson, the Assistant Resident, has been constantly on tour, and relief operations are now believed to be adequate. The administration is hopelessly weak in its subordinate staff, but the lately appointed Kamdar is capable, and has loyally co-operated with Lieutenant Patterson.

Organised crime has been largely put down, and the country is quiet. Age has weakened the obstructive tendencies of His Highness the Maharawal, who has given himself up to religious practices, and delegated much of his authority to the Kamdar, a by no means undesirable arrangement. A missionary at Jhalod in the Panch Mahals writes that the Chilkari Bhils, belonging to Banswara, are giving to raiding across the border, and his statement is being enquired into. Punitive measures of the nature employed in Dungarpur for the suppression of dakait bands have not been found necessary. Only one man, a notorious dakait leader, lost his life in resisting arrest.

From information since received, I am inclined to think that the Resident's estimate of the loss in population quoted in my last month's report, was excessive. Lieutenant Patterson has now visited every village of any importance in Banswara, and is of opinion that cholera has claimed many more victims than famine. The two combined have, he thinks, carried off not more than 15 per cent. of the population, and as emigration is opposed to the natural instincts of the Bhils, probably less than 5 per cent. have quitted their villages.

The distress has not been so acute as in Mewar or Dungarpur; the people have had more resources to fall back upon, and both the authorities and the banias have given comparatively liberal assistance to the Bhils in the shape of cash advances.

Grain, I understand, is coming freely into the country, both from the north and south.

Partabgarh and Kushalgarh.

9. There is nothing particular to record regarding this State and the petty Chiefship.

The numbers on relief have remained very steady, and the condition of the people and the character of the relief administration have been so satisfactory that the Assistant Resident was able to devote all his time to Banswara.

Shahpura.

10. This Chiefship has not yet recovered from the effects of the cholera panic. The numbers on works have again fallen further, while those on gratuitous relief have doubled. The Raja-dhiraj has distributed considerable sums for the purchase of seed and cattle, and has freely given from his fodder reserves for the maintenance of newly purchased cattle.

During the first two months of the famine, the collection of grass was practically the only form of relief work, and the Chief is now reaping the reward of his foresight.

On the whole, the people are very well prepared to take advantage of the first good rainfall.

Tonk.

11. The fear of cholera throughout the greater part of June deterred people from coming on the relief works. This partly accounts for the marked fall of numbers on the works, but the banias in the camps are also to blame. Since Mr. Wakefield's departure to Mewar, they have resumed their old practice of cheating their customers, which Lieutenant Abbott is now endeavouring to put a stop to. A great difficulty has been experienced in the two home parganas in getting starved and emaciated persons moved into the State poor-houses. On Captain Younghusband's suggestion, bullock carts have been employed and with excellent results, but some of the State officials have done their best to wreck the scheme by holding back the hire-money. That very desirable institution, a female orphanage, has been established at the capital, and the Prime Minister takes a personal interest in its management. A house for starving cattle has also been started.

The two tanks, which form the largest relief works, are nearly finished in spite of the laziness of the local masons in building the core walls. The Tonk masons turned out only 19 cubic feet of masonry a day against an average of 125 cubic feet accomplished by the Punjabis.

The Tonk poor-house is said to be a model of its kind, and an Arabian Maulvi, a refugee from his own country, has built two large ovens on a principle of his own, which have proved so well adapted for bread-making on a large scale that the pattern has been brought to the notice of other Famine Officers in the province. These ovens turn out from 400 to 500 loaves in an hour with a very small expenditure of fuel.

Bundi.

12. The efforts of Captain Younghusband and his Assistants to improve the efficiency of relief operations and to extend their scope, continue unabated. The poor-house system has been developed, and the death-rate in the largest

poor-house in the capital has by unremitting supervision been materially reduced. The Haraoti and Tonk Agency is unfortunate, in that the Agency Surgeon is also in medical charge of the Deoli Irregular Force, and is unable to exercise effective control over outlying dispensaries. As soon as the cholera epidemic in the Battalion and Cantonments abated, he visited, in company with the Political Agent, all the relief centres in Bundi, and has submitted an interesting report on which action has been taken. At his suggestion the hospital rations have been increased, and a liberal supply of easily digested nourishing food has been provided. The chief difficulty now is the hopeless ignorance and apathy of the local so-called medical staff and their assistants.

The numbers on works are fairly stationary, but there is an increase of nearly 100 per cent. in the gratuitous lists. The heat on the works is described as intense, and as in Sirohi and Marwar there have been a good many cases of sunstroke. Everything possible is being done to mitigate the hardships of the people in the camps. Each worker is given a small grain dole for his early morning meal, and remedies for urgent cases of illness are kept close at hand.

The great anxiety is the water-supply, which in some places is failing. The Darbar has been induced to help the artisan class by putting in hand as many new buildings as possible. The reports of the Political Agent and Medical Officer and the diaries of the Famine Officer show that, although relief organisation has steadily improved, it still leaves much to be desired. A striking instance of the opinions held by the inhabitants of Bundi as to source of their indebtedness for relief in their famine troubles is given in one of Lieutenant Haworth's diaries. The story shows at the same time how the well-known old names linger in the minds of the natives. As Lieutenant Haworth was riding past the sacred Ganga pool in Bundi city, some well-to-do Brahmins accosted him, and expressed their recognition of all that the Sirkar was doing for those in distress. He replied that their thanks were due to their own State, to which they answered—"The State would have left most of us to die if the Kampani Sahibs had not been sent here." Much the same sentiments have been expressed to me in Marwar. There can be no doubt that the poorer classes in Rajputana know perfectly well by tradition how little help they need expect in seasons of calamity from their own Darbars. They appreciate very highly the services of the British Officers in their behalf; and I believe the political effect of the assistance given by the British Government in the present famine will be excellent, deep, and widespread.

Early in June, under instructions from the Political Agent, Lieutenant Jacob proceeded to Central India to purchase 1,500 bullocks for Bundi. He began by buying a few animals from the returning Marwari emigrants, but that source of supply was closed, when the Marwaris learnt to their joy that fodder depôts on the Nimach roads towards their homes had been established for their benefit. With some trouble he succeeded in obtaining at a fair price the required number of good animals in Bhopal and Rutlam, and after some delay in procuring railway trucks, he succeeded in landing the whole consignment safely at Lambia Station in Mewar, and it is hoped that they are now well on their way by road to Bundi. Fodder is, of course, the great difficulty, and every day that passes without rain, adds to the anxieties of the local officers. According to the latest reports, prices of cattle are rising daily.

The States in this Agency have now been practically one year without rain Since the 9th July, 1899, no single village has received more than one or two showers, wholly insufficient to produce any appreciable effect on the agricultural situation.

Kotah Agency.

13. The Kotah Darbar and the people alike are paying the penalty for their want of sagacity and foresight during the closing months of last year. No proper control was then kept over the large herds of cattle brought in by immigrants, which spread through the forests consuming all the grass, and a brisk speculation in grain, the profits of which were probably shared by the district officials, have depleted the grain stocks which are consequently at a

dangerously low ebb. In November there was enough jowar karbi left to feed the majority of the cattle, had some attempt been made to preserve it. But all the karbi which had not been grazed down was cut and exported, in spite of warnings, by the end of March, and now even the supply of leaves is being rapidly exhausted.

Lieutenant James, the Famine Officer, who I regret to say, has lately had to rejoin his regiment, the 26th Baluchis, warned for service, has visited various outlying portions of the State, and reports that the people bitterly complain of the fodder export trade. He has met large numbers of men and cattle returning from the grazing grounds on the eastern border, who all tell the same tale that there is nothing left. Fodder appears to be holding out only in one district, where the want of communications has prevented export on a large scale.

The administration is seriously embarrassed for want of funds, and it is feared that relief measures may be correspondingly curtailed in spite of the three-lakh loan sanctioned by Government last month.

The love of their country which animates the dwellers in the desert is so strong that no inducements can prevail on Marwaris or Bikaneris to settle down in Kotah and Jhalawar where fertile land is to be had in abundance.

Numbers have risen somewhat in Jhalawar, the increase being confined entirely to the works. Distress is much less acute than in Kotah, but here also grazing is become very scarce. The condition of the villagers in the poorer tracts is said to be deteriorating. The Special Famine Officer's inspections have resulted in a distinct improvement in the poor-house arrangements and in the issue of gratuitous relief to people at their homes.

JAIPUR RESIDENCY.

14. The Jaipur figures show a distinct falling off under famine relief, but this is more apparent than real, as the reports from three of the distant Nizamats had not been received when the Resident's report was submitted. Many of the cultivators who had left the works to sow their fields after the May rain have returned. I am sorry to say all the early bajra and the first crop of grass, which sprang up after these showers, have been ruined by the hot winds.

Sporadic cholera has visited different parts of the State, and in the city it took a grave epidemic form. The outbreak has now abated and so far has failed to touch the large transport corps relief camp with 10,000 people just outside the city walls. Relief operations have been much hampered by a congestion of traffic on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway owing to insufficient rolling stock. The Raj grain stores are running very low, and carriage for supplies bought in the Punjab is with difficulty obtainable.

In Kishangarh the same difficulty is experienced, and large stores of fodder from the North-Western Provinces have been lying some time at Achnera and Parkham awaiting waggons. The question of the most suitable form of hand plough has received much attention, and a good pattern has been evolved at Jaipur. The great delay in the arrival of the rains is depressing the people, but hope is still placed in the oracles which were propitious.

ALWAR.

15. The monsoon's delay has caused a large rise of over 40 per cent. in the numbers on relief. This is significant as, in spite of a rise in prices, the famine wage has remained unaltered. The weather throughout June was extremely trying, and several deaths from sunstroke and heat-apoplexy have been reported. Cholera has appeared in four tahsils, but the relief camps have hitherto escaped. There is little fodder left, and the condition of the cattle is giving cause for anxiety. The water level in the wells is rapidly shrinking, and unless rain falls quickly, some villages in the hilly tracts on the south-west must be abandoned. The spirits of the people are beginning to suffer.

Eastern States.

16. The numbers on relief have again fallen in Bharatpur, as there appears to be an increasing demand for labour on irrigated lands. Distress has increased in Karauli, and there is a corresponding rise in the applicants for relief. The fields have all been tilled and manured, but in the absence of rain no seed can be sown. The cattle are losing condition, and the inhabitants of the uplands have removed almost all their animals to the valley of the Chambal. Cholera is reported from one tahsil, but it is of a mild type and there has been nothing in the shape of an epidemic.

Ajmer-Merwara.

17. There has again been an increase in the relief units in these districts. The latest reports show an aggregate total of over 150,000 people in receipt of State aid. The increase is due to the increased tension and to the presence, the Commissioner says, of a substantial number of foreign immigrants on the Ajmer works and poor-houses.

Cholera still lingers in Ajmer and has crossed the border into Merwara, but it is hoped that the worst is over. Among its victims I grieve to say is Dr. John Whitehouse, of the Scotch Presbyterian Mission, a comparatively young man, who laboured hard last cold weather in the Todgarh Tahsil and in the adjacent distressed parts of Mewar. At the end of June he contracted cholera while attending to sick and destitute people in Ajmer city. His death is greatly mourned not only by the mission, but by all classes of the community.

1,250 maunds of Nepal rice have been distributed among the various kitchens and poor-houses.

Ajmer has received the liberal assignment of Rs. 2,30,000 from the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and the greater part of the money has been already distributed to destitute cultivators. At the instance of the Central Committee, I had recommended that the distribution of the money should be delayed until the breaking of the monsoon, but this has evidently been found to be impracticable.

The Executive Engineer of Ajmer continues to report great difficulties in dealing with the grain sellers in the relief camps.

Mr. Tucker reports the jails to be over-filled and the criminal work to be very heavy.

General.

18. Generally speaking, everybody's energies have been devoted during June to stamping out cholera, to reorganising relief measures which panic had deranged, to completing the arrangements for starting field labour on the appearance of the monsoon, and to securing a sufficient supply of grain during the rains for the inhabitants of remote tracts.

The weather conditions of the month have been far from favourable. Owing to the weakness of the south-west monsoon current, the rain so eagerly looked for at the end of June has failed to reach Rajputana.

The intense and abnormal heat and the gradual shrinkage of water have increased the sufferings of man and beast, and have severely taxed the physical energies of the Famine Officers and the resources of the various Darbars, while the people who have so far borne their misfortunes with wonderful patience and fortitude are at last beginning to lose heart.

Maharaja Sir Bir Shamsher's generous gift of 11,000 maunds of rice, on which the railway freight alone (also defrayed by the Maharaja) amounted to Rs. 13,364 has been distributed, and is greatly appreciated.

During the month emigrants from Western Rajputana have been returning from Central India in large numbers. In the first fortnight over 3,000 persons

with 4,500 cattle were relieved at the depôts lately established on the high road running through Nimach and Mewar. No statistics are yet available of the people who have returned from the trans-Jumna districts, but the majority are said to be destitute and emaciated. A similar returning movement is reported from Bhawalpur and the north of Sind into Bikaner and Jaisalmer, but we have received no particulars.

In conclusion, I must not omit to mention Rajputana's indebtedness to America for her share of a very munificent gift of grain and blankets brought over from the States by Dr. Klopsch in the s.s. "Quito."

The allotments, judging from the "Times of India," of the 28th June, have been approximately as follows :—

—	Grain in Maunds.	Blankets.
American Methodist Episcopalian Mission	7,284	5,833
United Presbyterian Mission	6,766	4,800
Church Mission Society, Kherwara (for the Bhils) ...	2,731	1,000

I am expresssing gratefully our obligations to the Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund in America through the United States Consul in Bombay.

No. 215.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to His Excellency, the Viceroy, dated Mount Abu, the 12th August, 1900.

From the relief-statement* appended to this letter it will be seen that if the rains continue favourable the turning point of the famine of 1899-1900 was reached during July, when the aggregate of persons in receipt of relief fell by more than one quarter to 484,931. This is the lowest total recorded since January last. Although in the States of Jaisalmer, Sirohi, Alwar, and Kishangarh the numbers rose, the whole increase in all four amounted to only 3,107 persons. The heaviest proportionate falls occurred in Bikaner, in the small Sesodia States south of Mewar, and in Tonk, Bharatpur, Jhalawar, and Ajmer, where the totals were from 80 to 30 per cent. below those of June.

Bikaner.

2. In Bikaner the numbers on relief declined by 82 per cent. although there was a slight increase in the gratuitous lists. Small, but fairly general showers were received during the last fortnight of the month, and the people left the works so rapidly that the majority of the large camps were closed by the 31st July. One week's supply of food was given by the State to every one before leaving, while a large number also received money doles from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. All sick and infirm dependents were removed to the large poor-house near the capital. The emigrants who returned of their own accord from Sind and Bhawalpur appear to have gone straight to their homes. Although the rainfall was not heavy its sufficiency for ploughing and sowing was shown by the rush of labourers from the works. The city extension project, which ought to be completed without delay, was almost deserted, and it has therefore been converted into an ordinary departmental work with artisans and labourers paid at modified market rates. Pasturage is now once more

* Not printed.

available, and the lower castes are bringing green grass into the chief towns for sale. The water difficulties also are at an end. The strain on all the famine relief officers has been great, owing to the careful arrangements necessary for getting the people back to their homes, and for the distribution of takavi advances and charitable gifts. From the Maharaja downwards no one has spared himself.

Marwar.

3. The monsoon currents reached Marwar on the 11th of July and the cultivating classes at once began to leave. By the end of the month about one-fifth of the workers had gone. The officials in charge of relief measures were fully prepared for the change, and the petty works under civil agency were expanded, while the large works were gradually closed. This policy proved entirely successful, and saved much distress and suffering when the rain stopped, and the hopes of the people again fell. The management of the small works has steadily improved, and latterly the outturn of labour has been very good. The numbers of persons gratuitously relieved by the Darbar have risen, but the Jagirdars, with two or three honourable exceptions, have been only too ready to make the rain an excuse for curtailing their charitable expenditure. Only 115 deaths were returned in July as due to cholera. The majority occurred in the Malani perganna where the epidemic, though not of a virulent type, was a sad novel experience to the mass of the inhabitants.

The special famine officer found on his tours not a few children who had been abandoned by their parents during the cholera panic, and were being temporarily cared for by the local officials. It is probable that almost all will be eventually reclaimed. The health and physique of the people generally in Marwar were good. The only persons who showed signs of the long famine were the confirmed wanderers and some of the emigrants who had returned from the north. The rain came just in time to stop the gloomy forebodings of the astrologers and Brahmins who had began to lose heart, and to foretell all manner of evils. The monsoon current was too weak, for some time, to penetrate to Malani and the three other pergannas in the south-west, but even that arid tract in the last few days has received seasonable showers, and I may safely say that there is no present cause for anxiety in any part of the State. I am happy to add that my fears for the bajra have not been realised. It has shown itself to be hardier and more tenacious of life than even the Marwar farmer, with all his experience, anticipated. In four districts out of eighteen, practically the whole crop is doing well, and in eight others from one quarter to one half will be saved. The water-supply is now sufficient, except in a few isolated villages in Sheo and Malani. In spite of food grains pouring in, prices steadily rose till the very end of July, when the upward movement was effectually checked by a second and stronger advance of the monsoon.

The number of emigrants who have returned with or without cattle, or who have been railed back at the expense of the Darbar has markedly declined. I am unable just now to give even an approximate estimate of the people and cattle who have come back, but it may be assumed that all the surviving cultivators and farm labourers have rejoined their villages. I understand that the people have not taken kindly to the hand ploughs, of which a large number have been issued, gratis, and prefer yoking themselves to the ordinary heavier bullock ploughs.

The distribution of takavi advances and of money from the Calcutta Charitable Relief Fund has been nearly completed. Altogether the policy pursued at this period of the famine has been sound and wise, and efficiently carried out.

Jaisalmer.

4. Last month I reported that cholera had for a time mastered both the people and the officials. Works had been abandoned, shops shut, and even the public offices were closed. The climax of demoralization was reached when the acting Diwan, father of the present Maharawal (who was adopted into

the ruling family), was attacked by the disease and died. The recorded number of deaths is not large, but I fear represents only a fraction of the mortality. Twelve per cent. of the workers are returned as having succumbed, but a still larger percentage must have died at their homes, or on their way there. The epidemic is, however, now confined to one perganna.

June was a rainless month save in one district, but in July light showers were fairly general. Unfortunately, except in the Bap and Nokh pergannas, these fell too late to save the scanty bajra crop, which was either scorched by the hot winds or buried in sand by duststorms. The numbers on relief, although larger than those returned at the height of the cholera panic in June are smaller than those of any other month since operations began last October.

Very meagre accounts have been given of the cattle ; the 10,000 to 12,000 people who returned from Sind and Bhawalpur have not, so far as we know, brought many animals with them. Grass, however, was springing up in spite of the hot westerly winds, and if the State has shared in the rain which has recently been so general over the rest of the province, the surviving deported cattle will soon reappear.

The water-supply has distinctly improved, and some at least of the transport difficulties have disappeared.

SIROHI.

5. The first monsoon currents, which in the second week of July gave such good rain to the north, east and centre of Rajputana, appear to have travelled from the western coast through the Central Provinces until they reached Jhansi, where they were deflected to the west, and on striking the Chambal river spread out with losing strength to the west and south. The result was that Sirohi, in common with Western Marwar and Jaisalmer, received an infinitesimal share of rain. Many people who had left the relief works full of hope at the outset returned from their fields. There was also an influx of Grassias and Bhils from the slopes of the Aravallis in the south-east. Mr. Knight, the State Engineer, found in his tour in June that this corner of the State had been neglected by the Darbar officials, and adequate relief measures had then to be organized. In the third week of July heavier rain fell in the northern tahsils, but it was not until the monsoon current set in strongly across Guzerat that the State received sufficient general rain. One thousand hand ploughs made in Jaipur were distributed in the different tahsils, but, as in Marwar, the people have not taken to them. The Darbar hoped to complete their distribution of takavi advances before the month closed, but the central administration is badly served by the district officials, who are as a body, lazy and inefficient.

The recent heavy rain has almost put a stop to the cholera, but isolated cases keep occurring here and there, including Abu.

The supervision of the poor-houses still leaves a good deal to be desired. The well-meant, but rather ill-directed efforts of charitably disposed Europeans at Abu, Abu Road, and Erinpura may have complicated matters for the Darbar, but the drafting of able-bodied mendicants and wanderers from these centres to relief works has not been carefully or judiciously performed. About the middle of July Lieutenant Menzies was specially deputed to report on the Sirohi arrangements, and the Darbar's attention has been called to various shortcomings. In one instance it was found that two children belonging to a family sent to Abu Road from Abu had been drafted off to the Rohera poor-house by themselves, nearly 50 miles away from their home at Jaswantpura, on the other side of the hills.

The people generally are now picking up strength, the wells are filling, and the streams are running. At Abu nine inches of rain fell between the 6th and 8th August, and the Abu hills which had been burnt to a cinder have resumed a green appearance.

MEWAR.

6. The total number of relief units in Mewar (exclusive of the Hilly Tracts) has decreased by over 32,000 or 28 per cent. Fairly good rain fell throughout the State during the second week of July, which enabled agricultural operations to be begun everywhere, and, of course, accounts for the great drop in the numbers on relief. An inopportune break in the rains occurred on the 14th July, but on the 24th the Arabian Sea current advanced with greater force across Guzerat and restored confidence.

The Lambia works under Mr. Billings, in connection with the construction of the Mewar section of the Bara-Ajmer-Marwar Railway, were closed on the 1st August and the labourers have either been drafted elsewhere or sent back to their fields with a week's wages.

His Highness the Maharana has behaved well in the matter. As many of the tank projects have been interfered with by the rain, His Highness has decided on constructing the earthwork for a small branch line 14½ miles long from Maoli on the Udaipur-Chitorgarh Railway to Nathdwara, the great Vishnoi place of pilgrimage. This is capable of providing employment for about 25,000 people for three months, and will be easily supervised by the present railway staff with a small extra establishment. If properly managed, it will afford useful occupation to able-bodied Bhils until the early crops ripen.

Thanks to the insistence of the Darbar and the watchful supervision of Captain J. D. Pinney and Mr. Wakefield, the relief works in the Jagir area have steadily improved. The majority of the labourers are in Bednor and Deogarh, where Mr. Wakefield has lately employed them in breaking up the land for seed. These Jagirdars' tenants are in a bad way. Almost all their cattle have died and their ploughs have disappeared. The local shopkeepers, to whom they had pledged their implements at the beginning of the famine, refused to give them up except for exorbitant payments. To help the cultivators over their difficulties, Mr. Wakefield set them to work to make wooden handles for hoes and imported several thousand iron heads from the North-Western Provinces and Punjab. When the first consignment of these heads arrived at the headquarter camp, the bannias came in a body and offered to surrender for from two to four annas each the tools for which they had previously asked from Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 2. Large numbers of unsaleable hoes are now left on their hands, and the loss of money will be a lesson to them for the future. With the hoes manufactured by Mr. Wakefield, the whole of the large area to which the labourers belonged (which had previously been marked out in sections) was turned up to a depth of 10 inches. As a result of Mr. Wakefield's foresight and intelligence this remote part of Mewar, which 3½ months ago was held up in the "Times of India" as a sample of Native State maladministration, now promises to be one of the few tracts in Rajputana from which a normal kharif yield may be anticipated.

The people are paid in grain imported by Mr. Wakefield direct from Cawnpore, Ferozepur and other large markets and carried from the railway at Marwar Junction across country by special gangs of famine workers. The local Charitable Fund Committee at Udaipur have only been able to secure 1,000 bullocks, and so far, Banjaras and graziers show no signs of bringing animals from the outside for sale. The Jaipur hand ploughs are being distributed as fast as they can be made. It remains to be seen if they will be used. The time for sowing will soon be past, and, taking the State as a whole, it seems unlikely that more than 60 per cent. of the normal area will be put under cultivation. Some apprehensions were expressed by the district authorities of Ajmer-Merwara of a second invasion by Mewaris. I am happy to say these have so far not been realised. Lieutenant St. John, a probationer for the Political Department, has been appointed additional famine officer in Mewar, where his services will be mainly utilized in distributing large allotments from the charitable funds. Vain attempts have been made to induce the Bhils who struggled down from the hills during the past few months in search of relief to return to their homes. They sell in the nearest bazaar the stores of grain given to enable them to make a fresh start in life and then troop back in search of

further assistance. His Highness has now arranged to have them escorted back to their *pals*, where he promises that they shall receive, gratis, on arrival, hand ploughs and grain both for food and seed. Depôts have been established for this purpose in central villages and distribution will be made in presence of a British officer.

Throughout this famine the administration in Mewar has been subjected perhaps to more severe official and private criticism than that of any other Rajputana State. In justice to the Maharana it must, however, be said that he is not entirely to blame for the confusion and lack of organization which characterized relief measures in their early stage. His Highness has all along recognized his obligations to his subjects, and has evinced a desire to save life. I regret to have to report another victim to cholera, Mr. Reilly, an old army pensioner, who, at the beginning of the famine, was placed by the Darbar in charge of the works started in and about Udaipur for the relief of the Bhils and other low caste members who had flocked to the capital to beg. When cholera appeared he left his home and went to live among the people in camp at some little distance from the city. There he devoted all the energies of his kindly nature to keeping the people employed, nursing the cholera patients and even helping to dispose of the dead though himself often suffering from fever. Weakened by illness and overwork, he at last caught the prevailing epidemic and was brought into Udaipur in a dying state by Captain Pinney. I had known him for some years, and, as the Resident says, it will be impossible to replace him.

7. The numbers on relief in the hilly tracts of Kherwara and Kotra in Mewar have fallen by over one-third, the decrease being chiefly confined to the works. The numbers relieved by the agents of the Church Missionary Society have also fallen. The majority of the Bhils are now at work on their fields, but, being instinctively lazy, a certain proportion prefer to remain idle, subsisting as best they can on jungle products which the rain is bringing out. As only five per cent. of the cattle are left, the cultivators are breaking up the soil with hand hoes. Colonel Bignell, the Political Superintendent, is busy turning out for their benefit 3,000 hand ploughs. At present the people will not have anything to say to them, but the British officers at Kherwara hope to overcome their prejudices. In Kotra the rain has just come in time to save the surviving cattle, and to check the rapid increase in crime which began to develop in June. Colonel Bignell is importing bullocks from Sehore in Central India, and has lately submitted a statement of his pecuniary requirements to enable him to restore the Bhil tracts to something like their normal condition. Thanks to the generosity of the Government of India, and that of the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, I hope to be able to supply him with the necessary funds. The only doubt is whether it will be possible to obtain the number of cattle wanted. Up to the end of July transport was the great difficulty which the Political Superintendent and his Assistant, Major Hutton Dawson, at Kotra, had to try and overcome. No fodder for horses, camels or bullocks existed on the Udaipur-Kherwara road. Now green grass is springing up everywhere, and the welcome Banjara with his bullocks may reappear.

Major Hutton Dawson has, I understand, sufficient stores of grain in the Kotra District to last till the end of September.

At the time of writing I regret to say a telegram has come from Colonel Bignell announcing a serious outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia among the Kherwara cattle. I am inquiring of the Government of India whether he could be enabled to try inoculation as a preventive against the spread of this fatal disease.

8. In last month's report I referred to my correspondence with Missionaries of various denominations regarding the distress and mortality which prevailed among the Bhils. It will be convenient to mention here the results of that correspondence. It will be remembered that on the 25th of May the Bishop of Lahore presided over a Meeting of the Church Missionary Society at Amritsar, at which an account of the distress was given, compiled from different

sources. This account, which perhaps was somewhat highly coloured, did not precisely indicate the localities affected or the degree of suffering and mortality in each. The want of supplies, the transport difficulties, the dearth of water and the insecurity of the chief lines of traffic were all referred to, but the point brought most prominently to notice was that 40 per cent. of "the Bhil population" were dead and 50 per cent. of the remainder must die before the rains ceased. About the same time a letter signed by a clergyman in Mussoorie appeared in the "Pioneer." At my request Major Dunlop Smith wrote to this gentleman and obtained the names of several of his informants, with whom we put ourselves in communication. With the exception, however, of Mr. Outram, they all lived in Guzerat, or in the Native States outside Rajputana, so their statements did not practically affect the province. Mr. Outram, of the Church Missionary Society in Kherwara, replied, accepting responsibility for the estimates of mortality supplied to the Amritsar meeting. He explained that he had obtained his figures from Colonel Bignell in the course of conversation. The latter officer in sending on Mr. Outram's letter protested against casual remarks at the mess table being too seriously treated. Mr. Outram went on to say that as 60 per cent. of those on his own relief lists had died of the effects of famine, small-pox, cholera, and other diseases, he considered Colonel Bignell's estimate to be below the mark. He overlooked the fact, however, that the persons on his lists belong to the most destitute section of the community, which deprives his conclusion of any real value. In a recent report of relief operations the Political Superintendent made an elaborate calculation of the number of Bhils who had died or disappeared, estimating the total in the Kherwara district at from 35 to 50 per cent. of the population. In order to check this estimate (which comprised a good deal of guess work), he took an elaborate house to house census of the four worst and of the four best villages, the latter containing a large proportion of army pensioners. He found that the "dead and missing" amounted to from $39\frac{1}{2}$ to 28 per cent. in the worst, and to $12\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in the best, villages. For various reasons, which I refrain from going into, the mortality among the Kherwara Bhils has unquestionably been greater than in any other part of the province. It is difficult to form an accurate estimate of its extent, and it is impossible to say what proportion is due to starvation and purely famine causes as distinguished from cholera, small-pox, and other diseases. The following is an attempt to estimate the mortality among the Rajputana Bhils (including deaths from starvation) for the whole period of the famine, based on the reports we have received and the assumption that the rains will continue favourable.

In Sirohi 7 per cent., in Mewar 25 per cent., in the Hilly Tracts 30 per cent., in Banswara 15 per cent., in Dungarpur 12 per cent., in Pertabgarh 8 per cent., and in Kushalgarh 8 per cent.

In a normal year, with no epidemics, the mortality during the same period would, perhaps, be about 4 per cent. The difficulties in the way of relieving the Bhil in spite of himself are enormous. Some of those who left in search of pasture by the southern passes in the beginning of the famine returned, saying, "there is no food, and no grazing in the whole world," and could not be persuaded that food would be obtainable if they sought for it on a relief work. At one time Colonel Bignell gave out contracts for mats and lime to the well-to-do in the distant *pals*. They performed a certain portion of their task, but, when asked to bring the consignments into cantonments replied, "who would take so much trouble?" In the Bhil estimation, agriculture and robbery are the only two pursuits fit for a man. Their superstition and distrust helped to complicate the situation. Many of those who were brought too late into the Kherwara poor-house remarked before they died that they had not come before because the Sahibs had sworn to fill the valley near the poor-houses with corpses in order to propitiate the goddess who was ravaging the country. At the same time their generosity to each other, and their devotion to persons whom they know and esteem, are quite remarkable. They were starving Bhils who tended the late Mr. Thompson, under a tree in the jungle, when he died of cholera, who reverently brought his body into the nearest mission school, and who handed

over intact a large bag of money which had been entrusted to them by the dying man.

The Hilly Tracts have had ample showers of rain lately, and every village is believed to have grain in the ground. I am told the change of expression on the faces of the Bhils is very marked and pleasant to see. As one old Bhil observed to Major Dawson, " Bapji, my heart has come back to my body."

Dungarpur.—Smaller Sesodia States.

9. Numbers on relief rose rapidly in Dungarpur during July, chiefly owing to increasing confidence on the part of the people. Between the 11th and the 15th July general heavy rain fell, and agricultural operations were started everywhere. The exodus from the works began at once, but all the dependants who seemed to require special treatment were put on the gratuitous lists. Crime has shrunk to its normal proportions and the high roads are safe. Towards the end of June large numbers of the Palmi Bhils came on to the works. Until recently, when order was restored, they were among the most daring and successful dakaits and steadily refused to look at a famine work. The inhabitants of two *pals* continue refractory and refuse all friendly overtures. The Assistant Resident has, therefore, been authorised to have recourse to punitive measures. Grain imports have fallen as the heavy rain has induced the local grain dealers to open the stores which they have been concealing throughout the famine. The lists of persons to receive takavi advances and charitable grants were completed just before the rain arrived, and the seed grain has all been distributed.

Now that grazing is available the surviving cattle are picking up and advances for the purchase of plough bullocks are being issued. Five hundred animals, bought in Central India with the Charitable Fund money, were expected to arrive towards the end of July.

Banswara.

The numbers on relief in Banswara have fallen by 41 per cent. in consequence of the good rain. The works are being gradually closed and labour is concentrated at a few central places. Last month I alluded to a communication received from a missionary at Jhalod inside the Guzerat border to the effect that the Banswara Bhils on the Jhalod works were raiding to the north of the Panch Mahals. As a corrective, a relief work was started at Chilkari near the Guzerat boundary, and the Banswara people at Jhalod were brought back on to it. The Assistant Resident spent the greater part of the month in distributing takavi loans and charitable gifts. Lieutenant Patterson has also marched through large number of villages checking the distribution and ascertaining that the money has been properly applied.

Pertabgarh.

In Pertabgarh a fall of no less than 77 per cent. leaves only a little over 1,000 persons in receipt of relief, but the famine administration has always been effective in this State, and this rapid decrease gives cause for no apprehension. The Assistant Resident, while on tour, noticed a great change in the appearance of the Bhil *pals*. Most of their occupants have returned and are busily engaged in weeding their fields and repairing their houses. The largest tank project has been completely deserted except by the skilled workmen paid at special rates. Here, as elsewhere, the supply of fresh cattle is not equal to the demand, and the Assistant Resident has made arrangements to import animals from Central India.

Grazing is now available, and the future is opening brightly.

Tonk.

10. As the traces of cholera disappeared in the latter half of June and the monsoon showed no signs of appearing, the attendance on the works in

the home pergannas and in Nimbahera rapidly increased. On the 9th July, however, exactly twelve months to a day since the last considerable rainfall, the monsoon broke, causing most of the cultivators to leave the works. Those who had lost their all in the struggle for existence and whom the bannias would not help were assisted from the charitable fund. Indeed, everyone who went away received a small sum of money to help him on his homeward journey. By the end of the month the numbers on relief had fallen by just under 40 per cent. In the Tonk perganna, where the relations of the bohras with the zamindars are of the nature of banker and client, the takavi advances were given by the State officials to the bohras at the request of the people themselves.

The zamindars hope with the assistance they have received to be able to bring at least three-fourths of the normal area under kharif cultivation. In the matter of takavi the jagir villages have not been treated so generously as the khalsa villages. This was only to be expected, but I have requested all political officers to see that the charitable fund allotment is divided fairly between the two classes. In the Aligarh district the bohra system does not obtain and the takavi has been given to the people themselves. The charitable grants have been distributed along with the State loans on the lines recommended by the Calcutta Central Committee. Although the delay in the setting in of the rains gave rise to great anxiety and depression of spirits, it facilitated the grain imports which were needed for this season.

The Revenue Superintendent purchased 350 very good bullocks in Rutlam for Nimbahera, and this perganna has lately received 450 more from Sironj. All of these travelled by road, fodder being issued to the Rutlam animals at the relief depôts *en route*.

The Sironj cattle marched across country bringing their fodder with them in 112 carts. Rain delayed them on the way, and as one quarter of the animals were unbroken, a stampede occurred. Twenty-two were eventually returned as dead or missing, and 14 who were too weak to proceed had to be sold by auction. 400 additional head were shortly afterwards expected from Chabra. The bannias are readily advancing money to the zamindars, many of whom have gone off to buy cattle on their own account. The consignment of Nepal rice was distributed (in quantities sufficient to last a fortnight) to all the cultivators leaving the works.

Bundi.

11. During the first ten days of July the numbers on the works rose more rapidly than in any other State, and there was a steady increase in the applications for admission to the poor-house in spite of continual drafting to the works. The drafts were not permitted to work between 11 A.M. and 4 P.M., and their physical condition rapidly improved, notwithstanding insufficient shelter. The takavi and charitable lists were completed by June, but those compiled in the outlying tahsils were incomplete and so obviously inequitable that Lieutenant Haworth revised them himself. In the beginning some attempts were made by the subordinate officials to gain a profit out of these grants, but a sentence in one case of seven years' rigorous imprisonment checked this tendency. A ten days' break in the monsoon induced a return of people to the works, but an abundant rainfall in the closing week of July caused a decrease of one quarter in the total number. The liberal grants from the charitable funds were much appreciated, the recipients remarking that it was "a royal method" of closing a famine. Even the poor-house population is melting away. The Political Agent has sent me a graphic description of the distribution of new clothes to the inmates before their departure, who, when dressed in their clean apparel, looked twice as strong and plump as they did before. Each man and woman carried away as a parting present a hoe, or sickle, some grain and a trifling sum in cash. The free issue of bullocks had also its dramatic side. The animals were penned close by, and as each recipient's name was read out he was given a paper stating that the bullock was a free gift, and with it he received from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 to pay for its food. He was then sent into the pen, where with some difficulty he caught his animal and marched it off in triumph with his pagri tied round its neck.

Captain Younghusband writes that he doubts if £10,000 have ever been spent to such good purpose.

A few relief works will be kept open in case of a prolonged break in the rains, nor will the poor-houses be closed until all fear of another crop failure is over. These last are now stocked with a plentiful supply of medicines, sago, arrowroot, Mellin's food, condensed milk, essence of mutton, clothing and blankets. At the same time the medical arrangements have been much improved. Captain Younghusband has been enabled to materially increase the trained staff by means of a private fund which he has raised among friends, and he reports that, as he has now secured the services of one "retired" Assistant Surgeon and one "failed" Assistant Surgeon, the sick are receiving all reasonable care.

KOTAH.

12. The number of persons on works in Kotah has also fallen by one quarter. The decrease has been mainly confined to the civil agency works which chiefly attracted the cultivating classes. The fluctuations on the railway works have been slight. The fresh Government loan of one lakh has enabled the Darbar to issue orders to the district officials to grant relief to all who ask for it, and I have requested the Political Agent to impress upon the administration the grave responsibility of curtailing operations. Lieutenant James, who has left for China with his regiment, has been succeeded by another Staff Corps Officer, and the Maharao, accompanied by the Political Agent, will start, when the rain permits, on a tour of inspection through one-third of the State, the other two-thirds being visited by the Agency Surgeon and State Engineer. The whole of Kotah has received abundant rain, and if the same energy which now marks the administration of direct relief is displayed in setting up the broken down cultivators and providing seed grain and plough bullocks, the harvest should not be more than 25 per cent. below the normal.

JHALAWAR.

Jhalawar has also received capital rain, and the numbers on relief have fallen by one-third to a little over 22,000. Sowings of maize and cotton are completed, and the rest of the culturable land is being put under the cheaper cereals. There has not been any great mortality among the cattle, and if assistance is freely given to the destitute cultivators, Jhalawar should reap a normal kharif. The prospects of the Agency are therefore good.

JAIPUR.

13. Mr. Irwin now describes the prospects in Jaipur and Kishengarh as excellent. There was general rain during the second week in July, though the quantity varied from 10 inches at Sawai Madhopur to 2 inches or less in parts of Shekhawati. Ploughing and sowing began at once. Then came a break of 10 days, during which dry west winds again blew and general apprehension was felt. The second advance of the monsoon current, however, brought heavy showers, and has put everybody in good heart. The only tract where anxiety was felt is the north-east corner of Shekhawati on the Loharu border, but on the 1st August all except five villages received good rain. The numbers on relief have decreased by 22 per cent. The land owning classes have all left the works, and the farm labourers should leave in the course of the next week when field weeding begins. The bohras, or money lenders, have begun to help the people, and as grazing is available, the large cattle home, containing 900 animals, has been broken up. The Resident reports that a comparatively large proportion of the plough and well bullocks have weathered the famine, probably the mortality is under 30 per cent. Cholera has died out in Jaipur city, but lingers in a sporadic form in a few villages. The complete immunity from the disease which Sirdar Dhanpat Rai's camp has enjoyed speaks volumes for that officer's

administrative ability. In last month's report I mentioned the impediment to relief operations caused by the congestion of traffic on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, owing to a deficiency of rolling stock. I had, however, no intention of imputing any blame to the Traffic Department, whose head, Mr. Seymour Wood, has shown great energy and administrative capacity in arranging for the heavy imports of grain and fodder. In many cases he has been obliged to pack grain and hay in 3rd class carriages. Some idea of the difficulties he had to contend against may be gathered from two complications which arose within a few days of each other. In the last week of June the water supply at Bawal, the station next to Rewari, unexpectedly failed. This meant the stoppage of five trains a day until a sufficient number of water tanks could be run out from the nearest reservoir. In the following week the station staff at Kanauta, between Jaipur and Bandikui, were attacked by cholera, and all but the station-master died or deserted. The latter concluded it was time for him to depart also; he therefore telegraphed his resignation to the Traffic Superindent, informed the station masters on either side of him that for purposes of communication his station had ceased to exist, severed his telegraphic earth connection, locked the siding points so as to allow trains to run right through, gave "line clear" to the approaching passenger train, and boarded it as it left the platform. The man has not since been heard of.

KISHANGARH.

The rain came not a day too soon for Kishangarh. The works had to be kept open much longer than was contemplated, and the cash balances were dangerously reduced by the 10th July. The numbers on works had declined on the 31st July by 16 per cent., but this was more than counter-balanced by a rise of 28 per cent. on the gratuitous list. These fluctuations show how carefully the Darbar have avoided curtailing relief too rapidly. They have bought between 600 and 700 head of cattle, and have issued a very large number of hand ploughs. No little trouble has been taken to induce the cultivators to use these, and with greater success here than anywhere else. On Mr. Irwin's suggestions the Darbar have promised to try the experiment of using donkeys for the plough. The Kumhars or potters who own donkeys are to begin on plots of khalsa land. If the people's prejudices can be overcome a great advance will have been made.

I am glad to be able to report favourably of the small Thakurate of Lawa, where the tanks and wells are all full, and the normal area has been put under cultivation. The cattle which perished have been replaced from a private fund collected by the Resident, and only one or two families have been reduced to using hand ploughs. Mr. Irwin, I regret to say, has now left Rajputana. The chiefs and people in the Jaipur Residency are under great obligations to him. It is greatly due to his administrative ability, his sympathy with the people, and his knowledge of their wants, that the famine campaign has been so successfully fought in this part of the province. Mr. Irwin has freely given both his time and money to helping the distressed. The province can ill afford to lose him.

ALWAR.

14. The first burst of the monsoon gave but little rain to Alwar, and up to the 28th of July the numbers on relief steadily rose. The turbulent Meo population grew very restless, and the people became possessed of gloomy forebodings. The good effects of the showers about the 12th July were dissipated by the succeeding drought, but the change that set in on the 27th July has completely altered the situation. It is remarkable that the relief units increased during July by 9 per cent., in spite of many cultivators leaving the works on the 28th and 29th. Up till May there was little mortality among the cattle, but since then they have rapidly deteriorated, and the Political Agent is afraid that the cultivated area for this kharif will be considerably below the normal.

EASTERN STATES AGENCY.

15. The States in this Agency, except in the north and north-west of Bharatpur, have received fair rain from the Bengal monsoon current, and the numbers on relief in Bharatpur have fallen by over one-third to under 7,000, while in Karauli relief operations have entirely ceased. The grass crop in Bharatpur is not promising, Colonel Herbert says.

AJMER-MERWARA.

16. This district received heavy rain between the 9th and 12th July, which was followed, as elsewhere, by a break of ten days, when hot-weather conditions again prevailed. On the 28th July the second burst of the monsoon occurred, and since then there has been no cause for anxiety. The heaviest rain fell in the south of Ajmer, but all over the district sufficient showers were received to enable ploughing and sowing to be carried on. By the end of the month the numbers on relief had fallen by nearly one-third to 106,521, which is the lowest total recorded since February. The majority of the people who left belonged to the landowning classes, the decrease being greatest in the Ajmer tahsil. The distribution of Government advances and of Charitable Fund money for the purchase of seed and cattle has been made under the personal supervision of the Assistant Commissioners, their native Assistants, and the Famine Officers. Altogether a sum of no less than Rs. 3,80,480 was given out, and it is hoped that it will be legitimately spent. My fear is that bullocks may not be obtainable locally, and that the money may be devoted to other objects. The Commissioner reports that the cattle which left the districts a year ago are beginning to return. Apparently, no steps have been taken to procure cattle from outside, and I hear of no professional dealers bringing in animals for sale.

Mr. Tucker is not yet in a position to say what the kharif-cultivated area will be, but unless conditions for ploughing improve I am inclined to think it may be from 25 to 40 per cent. below the normal. In Merwara a good deal of hand ploughing is said to be going on.

In spite of the rain, prices have kept wonderfully steady. The first tendency for them to fall appeared in the return for the week ending the 28th July. Until, however, the next harvest is assured over the greater part of India affected by famine, there cannot be much change. Grain imports show some signs of slackening in Merwara. Hide exports from Ajmer have been falling off, but in Merwara the weekly average for July was the highest on record. Cholera still lingers on a few works in Ajmer, but the periodical inspection reports show that the general condition of the people is good.

GENERAL.

17. There is every reason to believe that the high-water mark of distress was reached during the first part of July, when the majority of the bohras said that now the last days of Asar (4th to 11th July) had come without rain, they must, in self-defence, stop all advances. At that time the meteorological reports were discouraging, and the ravages of cholera coming on the top of the long weary strain of famine had tended to fill the minds of the officials and the people alike with grave apprehensions. Altogether, the outlook was gloomy. But the first burst of the monsoon on the 9th and 10th of July effectually dispelled all forebodings, and inspired every one with fresh hope. The short subsequent drought somewhat revived anxiety, but the second strong advance of the rain currents in their ordinary direction across Guzerat has unmistakeably changed the whole aspect of affairs. History repeats itself, and there is reason to think that this, the worst recorded famine in Rajputana, will resemble its predecessors in the method of its extinction by late and good rains. The various Darbars and the officials engaged in the work of relief, and—in a conspicuous degree—the distressed people themselves, have borne the trials of deferred hope with exemplary patience and fortitude.

Charitable Relief from Outside.

18. We have now received from the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund altogether Rs. 18,55,000. This has been distributed as follows :—

State.	Amount.
	Rs.
Bikaner	1,30,000
Sirohi	75,000
Marwar	2,75,000
Jaisalmer	65,000
Mewar	2,23,000
Banswara	27,000
Pertabgarh	20,000
Dungarpur	32,000
Kushalgarh	5,000
Shahpura	41,000
Tonk	1,20,000
Bundi	1,60,000
Kotah	1,22,000
Jhalawar	33,000
Kishangarh	90,000
Hilly Tracts, Mewar	53,000
Mount Abu	2,000
Ajmer-Merwara	2,60,000
Total	17,33,000

The balance has been retained to meet the charges of the emigrants' relief depôts and unforeseen contingencies.

I have forwarded to the Central Committee accounts received from different officers of the manner in which the money has been spent, and the feeling of gratitude its distribution has evoked.

The following are examples of the expressions of the people :—

" If the English had not sent us this money, the thread of our lives would have broken."

" These are not rupees that have come from over the sea, they are the water of life."

" We have *heard* of the generosity of Hatmi Tai, but we have *tasted* that of the Great Queen."

It is not uncommonly thought that the issue of gifts and the liberal lines on which famine relief has been organised have brought about a demoralization of the people. Individual instances proving this contention can no doubt be cited, but proofs to the contrary also exist.

Mr. Irwin records in the course of one of his tours meeting a Jat whom he urged to go to the nearest relief work some 25 miles away giving him some money to help him and his family to get there. A few hours later the man came to the Resident's tent and returned the money saying he had misled the Sahib in stating that he had reached the end of his resources as he still possessed three goats which would suffice for the requirements of the journey. The man was wisely allowed to return the money and to retain his self-respect. This is only one case among others I could quote.

The various private charitable organizations at work in Rajputana continue to give assistance, and fresh contributions both from India and England are received. During July, Mr. Jehangir Bomanji Petit sent the Famine Commissioner Rs. 1,000 out of his "Two anna Relief Fund" for distribution in the most distressed districts.

No. 216.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to His Excellency the Viceroy, dated Mount Abu, the 12th September, 1900.

In my last famine report I remarked that if the favourable rainfall continued we might hope to date the turning point of the famine from July, and the appended statement* affords satisfactory evidence that our hope has been realised. August opened under happy auspices, and the decline in numbers on relief which had set in towards the end of July was accelerated. Whereas in July the total on the relief lists fell by little more than one-quarter, the fall in August was nearly one-half. As was to be expected, the workers disappeared most rapidly. Their number has decreased by 53 per cent. compared with a falling off in the gratuitous lists of only 34 per cent. The only State where an increase has been recorded is Kotah, the reasons for which are explained further on. The heaviest proportionate falls have occurred in the Western Rajputana States (where the people have shown wonderful recuperative power) and in Bundi, the totals on relief in each case being less than one-fourth of those recorded in June.

Bikaner.

2. In Bikaner, which showed the heaviest fall in July, the numbers on relief in August declined by over one-third. Practically the whole of the small famine labour was concentrated on the city extension scheme at modified market rates. None of the emigrants who have been flocking back from Sind and Bhawalpur have applied for relief. The sick and infirm are concentrated in three poor-houses. Sufficient rain for the crops has fallen all over the State, and the heavy showers received during the last few days of the month have ensured exceptionally rich pasturage. Locusts have made their appearance for the first time this year, but fortunately only in small numbers. These pests rarely fail to follow a famine in Rajputana. If they come when the crops are young, the nipping of the young shoots has frequently merely the effect of pruning; but if the grain has begun to form in the ear they cause cruel loss.

His Highness the Maharaja, attended by his capable famine assistant, Thakur Dip Singh, has left for China, and the Commandant of the State Infantry is in charge of the closing operations.

Marwar.

3. The rainfall of the month varied from an average of 3 inches in the northern and western districts to over 22 inches in Desuri, the chief town of Godwar, the eastern district. In July only about one-fifth of the people left

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* Not printed.

the works, while the total of the gratuitous lists actually increased. During August the former have declined by as much as 90 per cent., and the latter by nearly two-thirds. Subsistence allowance varying from 15 to 30 days' rations were given to agricultural labourers returning to their homes. The jaghir and civil agency works are almost entirely closed, and the people who remain are employed in completing a few of the larger Public Works Department projects. A pleasant feature of the relief operations in August is an increase of 36 per cent. in the number of girls in the State orphanage, indicating an increased sense of responsibility on the part of the central administration in connection with one of the saddest effects of a great famine.

Ploughing and sowing have been going on briskly throughout the State, and the early bajra is beginning to come into the market. Cotton and late autumn crops were being sown up till the very end of the month, and although the area under cultivation in the western districts is below the normal, there is every prospect of a good kharif and a splendid rabi. The prices of food grains have fallen, barley selling for from 9 to 15 seers per British rupee. The prejudice against the hand ploughs has been largely overcome in the light sandy tracts, but elsewhere the people have preferred to use spades and even axes for tilling the soil. All the tanks are overflowing, and grass is abundant everywhere.

The physical condition of the people shows a marked improvement, and the number of deaths from diseases connected with famine fell from 1,693 in July to 1,258 in August. At the same time I regret to say that cholera still clings to the large towns, where the cases are numerous. In July only 115 deaths from cholera were returned for the whole of Marwar. During August no less than 649 were recorded in the city of Jodhpur alone.

JAISALMER.

4. The reports from Jaisalmer as to the prospects of the season are equally encouraging. Relief works have been entirely closed. The only persons now shown as receiving relief are orphans and a few sick and infirm persons who are being supported from charitable grants until their relations are in a position to resume charge of them. The rainfall has been general, the average in August amounting to 2·01 inches as compared with 1·04 in July and 0·23 in June. Grass has sprung up everywhere, and the people are hastening back from Sind and Bhawalpur. If Jaisalmer has shared in the heavy rain of the last few days, 1900 will be a record year. In spite of a large decrease in the imports of food supplies, the prices of grain have fallen. Grasses producing edible grain are also now available. The physique of the people has improved, and they are in good heart.

SIROHI.

5. As reported last month, the monsoon currents failed to penetrate into Sirohi until the third week in July, up to which time the numbers on relief steadily rose. Conditions, however, were so consistently favourable throughout August that relief works have been closed and the numbers on the gratuitous lists have fallen by more than one-half. All the famine labourers received a subsistence allowance for their homeward journey and sufficient money to support them for a few days in their villages. In addition, every cultivator was directed to report himself to the district officer with a view to his receiving a free gift or loan for the purchase of seed and cattle should local inquiry show such advances to be necessary. The procedure is commendable, but its efficacy depends entirely on the Raj officials, who as a rule, I fear, are not distinguished for either honesty or efficiency. 300 bullocks have been imported by the Darbar, and are now being distributed; but great difficulty is experienced in finding animals to purchase, the markets as far east as the Central Provinces having already been exploited by the Agents of other Rajputana States. In Sirohi hand ploughs have made no advance in public favour; the people leaving the works have been allowed to take their digging implements with them. A central orphanage has at last been established in the capital, to which children are drafted from the outlying relief centres. The management of the poor-houses at Abu

Road and Kohera has much improved under the direct supervision of a native officer and a non-commissioned officer of the Erinpura Irregular Force. The chief feature of relief in August was the issue of loans and gifts to cultivators, a task which was personally undertaken by Mr. Knight, the State Engineer, in the four worst districts, and by the Diwan in the others. In the course of their tours inquiry was made regarding the assistance being given by the Bohras to their clients, and wherever it was found that any Bohra or buniah had refused to advance money to a cultivator possessing land (and therefore regarded as solvent), he was told that unless he did his duty by his client now, the recovery from him of any old debt would have to be indefinitely postponed. These injunctions have caused many a cautious money-lender to open his hoards who was afraid to make any advances except upon an absolutely certain crop.

MEWAR.

6. The numbers on relief have continued to fall in Mewar, though not as quickly as in July. The decrease on works in August has been only just over 10 per cent. The chief reason for this is that distress was allowed to develop so far in the jagir areas that the people have been unable to dispense with State aid as soon as their more fortunate fellow subjects in the khalsa villages. The credit for maintaining relief works against the wish of some of the Jagirdars is due to His Highness the Maharana. The khalsa works are now largely deserted. The rainfall has been exceptionally heavy in many parts of the State, and many of the dams erected by famine labour have failed to withstand the heavy floods.

Crime is diminishing, and thanks to abundant grass, the condition of the cattle is improving. A large decrease of 42 per cent. in the numbers on gratuitous relief is chiefly due to the curtailing of charitable operations by the Jagirdars and the Deosthan (temple agency). There has not been much diminution of numbers in the State poor-houses; during the current month, however, this branch of relief will be largely curtailed. A thousand bullocks purchased with charitable funds have arrived from Sehore and Jhansi. I had an opportunity at Chitor of inspecting a batch of 250 of these animals. They were a good level lot, and well worth the thirty-five rupees a head which had been paid for them. There were a few young bulls amongst them, but no cows. The distribution of gifts from the charitable funds has been carried out by Messrs. Wakefield and St. John. Captain Pinney, I regret to say, contracted dysentery from exposure on tour early in the month, and has been obliged to take leave. The distributing officers had to exercise the greatest care in seeing that the people clearly understood they were receiving gifts, and in preventing the subordinate officials from taking some of the money. On one occasion the son of a Thakur with no inconsiderable means was discovered levying an impost of four rupees on every recipient on his father's estates. He was brought into Udaipur, and handed over to the Darbar for punishment. Against this and one or two other instances of rapacious greed may be placed the experience of one of the Famine Officers with the Thakur of Unklia. The latter is an old Rahtor whose ancestors were formerly subordinate to Bednor, one of the leading Mewar nobles. More than a century ago, however, when the drums and insignia of the Maharana Ursi II. were passing through the district, they were attacked by robbers, and the then Thakur of Unklia succeeded, after a hard fight, in driving off the marauders. For this service he was given a village to be held in direct jagir from the Darbar, and was made independent of his former over-lord. Bad seasons, heavy calls in connection with social ceremonies, combined, doubtless, with bad management, have left the present representative deep in debt. This year's famine completed his ruin, and he is now so destitute as to be frequently unable to provide sufficient food for his household. In distributing the charitable grants, the Famine Officer calculated the share of the Unklia tenants to be Rs. 350. When the Thakur was asked to submit a list of deserving persons to whom the money should be given, he produced an estimate of only Rs. 262, saying he could not honestly push up the total any higher. The rest of the story may be told in the Famine Officer's own words. "Aware of his personal circumstances, I said, 'Thakur Sahib, I will now distribute the amount you have recorded, but in addition I

would like you to take one hundred rupees to use as you think fit.' He replied, 'I would not know what to do with it, Sahib, for I have no other tenants to whom I could give it.' It was of no use trying to beat about the bush any more, and as there was no one else present, I said to him, 'Will you take this sum yourself as a token of brotherhood from your English fellow subjects of the Great Queen.' He replied, 'Sahib, you are very good, but I am a Rahtor; I could not take charity.' I answered, 'Take it then as a private loan from me. You can repay me when I ask for it.' To this he consented, and I had to accept a formal receipt from him. 'Sahib,' he said, 'God bless you. I will pay you fifty rupees on the reaping of this crop and the remainder on the next crop.' He will try to do so I feel sure, and I shall then have to devise some means of avoiding repayment."

7. There has been abundant rain in the hilly tracts of Kherwara and Kotra, and the numbers on relief have declined by nearly sixty per cent. The majority of the Bhils are at work on their fields, but large numbers prefer to remain idle and to pick up what food they can in the jungles. This is one great reason for the poor condition of the people throughout the Bhil country. The stronger men are using the hand-ploughs sparingly. A certain number of cattle have been imported and distributed, and the Political Superintendent and his assistant have ample funds to buy more. The difficulty is to find purchasable animals. As far as I can judge from inquiries made on my late tour to Udaipur, I am inclined to think that Colonel Bignell's estimate that 95 per cent. of the cattle in the Kherwara district had perished was distinctly exaggerated. In the Channi estate most of the Patels have succeeded in keeping their cattle alive; in Jawas there are few Patels who have not one or more plough bullocks; the Rao of Madri refused a takavi loan on the ground of his possessing bullocks, while the Bhils of more than one "pal" have contrived by successful raiding to show more cattle now than when the famine began.

Water and fodder are abundant, and there is no dearth of edible jungle products. The Bhils have taken special pains with their maize sowings, and there is reason to believe that the maize harvest will be fully equal to, if not above, the normal. The rice crop, on the other hand, will be below the average. The Political Superintendent complains of injury caused to the Kherwara and Udaipur road by the heavy rain, whereby the import of grain is much delayed. The Darbar has, however, given orders for immediate repairs.

Smaller Sesodia States.

8. Up to the 27th August, 22 inches of rain had been registered at Dungarpur, and the authorities have found themselves in a position to close all the relief works, with the exception of the improvements to the Dungarpur-Kherwara road. Each dismissed able-bodiod worker was given one month's subsistence allowance before he left, and all the sick and infirm were drafted to poor-houses and kitchens. The Assistant Resident hopes to close these institutions by the end of September. 500 bullocks have been imported, and Rs. 26,000 have been disbursed as loans or gifts for the purchase of seed and cattle; 300 Jaipur hand ploughs have also been distributed. With a fresh grant of Rs. 18,000 from the Provincial Committee of the Charitable Relief Fund, Lieutenant Drummond will be able to buy more seed and cattle for the spring harvest. The grain dealers have again begun to hold out for high prices as the rains greatly impede imports.

I am glad to report that only one case of dakaiti occurred in August, in which the offenders were arrested and the stolen property recovered. Equally good reports come from Pertabgarh, Banswara and Kushalgarh. Relief works have been entirely closed in the two latter, while in Pertabgarh 299 persons were still on works at the end of August. The fall in the numbers on gratuitous relief has been comparatively slight.

The area under maize cultivation in Pertabgarh is larger than usual; the crops are well advanced and very promising, except on the low lands, where they are suffering from excessive wet.

The rainfall in Pertabgarh since the 1st of June exceeds 37 inches, and a break is now urgently wanted. With full tanks and wells, the prospects of the rabi are excellent.

Lieutenant Patterson has personally supervised the distribution of Rs. 15,000 in Pertabgarh and Rs. 20,000 in Banswara, and large numbers of cattle have been imported from Malwa.

270 dakaits have been arrested in Banswara, and crime has diminished both there and in Pertabgarh.

Haraoti and Tonk Agency.

9. The numbers on relief in Tonk have fallen by one half, and there are now only 1,300 persons on works. In consequence of the exhaustion of grain stocks and the blocking of traffic by floods, the difficulty in August has been to keep isolated villages supplied with sufficient food. Up to date some 1,350 cattle have been given away, which, by good management on the part of the purchasing officer, have cost only Rs. 22-4-0 per head. The Bohras have now agreed to lend money for the purchase of cattle, but it is difficult to obtain animals locally at any price. As soon, however, as the kharif sowings and the earlier plough-weedings are finished, the villagers may be able to find animals in Central India.

The authorities state that the area sown in the Tonk and Nimbahera pargannas is equal to the normal. The Political Agent distrusts this statement, but admits that the amount of land everywhere brought under the plough is far larger than he had anticipated. It is probable therefore that my estimate of three-fourths given in my report for July may be slightly exceeded.

There has been almost too much rain in Bundi, but the prospects of a good harvest are assured. All the relief works but one have been closed, and there has been a reduction of 66 per cent. in the numbers on gratuitous relief. The first half of August was employed in distributing cattle and petty grants for maintenance. During the latter part of the month there was a systematic weeding out of persons on the gratuitous relief lists. All those who were sent to their homes received clothes and valedictory doles under the supervision of British officers or selected Thakurs. The railway officers very generously assisted. The medical arrangements organised by the Political Agent have continued to work smoothly, and Dr. Huntly of the Scotch Presbyterian Mission, who returned to Bundi at the beginning of August, has given useful help in connection with the orphanage.

The works have all been closed in the Chiefship of Shahpura, and there are barely 200 people on the gratuitous lists.

The Kotah Agency.

10. I reported that at the end of July the numbers on the Kotah relief works had fallen by one quarter. During August this decrease was maintained, but the numbers on gratuitous relief have nearly doubled. The result is that the total number of persons on relief of all kinds is 20 per cent. higher than it was in the previous month. Since relief operations began, the August total of 31,595 has only once been exceeded in April. The reports for August and for the last week in August have not yet reached me, so that the reasons for this increase can only be surmised. One reason may be the re-organisation of the system of gratuitous relief in villages which should have been taken in hand long ago.

This Agency has received heavier rain than any other part of Rajputana, and communications are everwhere interrupted. The maize crop in the east and south is suffering from rust, and floods in the Chambal and Kalisindh rivers have also done damage. The kharif harvest is, I fear, not so promising as in other parts of the province, but there is every prospect of a good rabi.

In the absence of the Political Agent's reports, I am unable to say what has been done in the way of providing the cultivators with seed, grain, and bullocks.

Jaipur Residency.

11. Since the end of July the workers and the persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in Jaipur have both decreased by more than two-thirds. The total number of relief units has fallen from close on 87,000 to just over 26,000, which is the lowest total recorded since November, 1899. There was a partial break in the monsoon during the last fortnight in August, but at no time was there any sign of a return of hot weather conditions, and during the opening days of September there has been a fresh advance of a strong monsoon. The Resident reports that the standing crops are assured, and a few showers towards the end of the current month are all that is necessary to ensure an abnormal area being put under spring crops. The early bajra has begun to ripen, and will soon be in the market. The bajra in Shekhawati is said to be exceptionally fine, some of the ears being two feet in length. Grass is everywhere abundant, and the cattle are fast recovering condition. The people are taking longer to pick up strength, but cases of emaciation are now seldom met with, and as soon as cheap grain is available the poorer classes will be able to dispense with the unnutritious jungle grasses and vegetables which at present form their staple food.

Cholera is being kept under, and the usual autumnal malarial fever has not yet begun.

I was told by Colonel Durrel Pank, the Residency Surgeon, that several instances had occurred of money, even gold, being found concealed in the shoes of apparently destitute paupers who had died in the poor-house. The explanation is that with many of the better class of cultivators it was considered a solemn duty to keep in reserve a small sum to set themselves going again when the rains came, and no amount of personal suffering would compel them to trench on this secret store.

In Kishangarh relief operations are practically at an end, but infirm and destitute persons have been collected at the central famine hospital. The American Relief Committee in Bombay have generously sent the Darbar an allotment of Rs. 5,000.

The experiment of using donkeys in the plough has not proved a success.

The Diwan has lately taken up the subject of providing suitable relief to weavers, and the Famine Commissioner has been able, through the courtesy of the Inspector-General of Prisons in the Punjab, to supply him with a simple pattern of hand loom.

Your Excellency will already have learnt of the death of Maharaja Sir Sardul Singh, G.C.I.E. His Highness, who was one of the most respected chiefs in Rajputana, had been ailing for some time, but he never allowed his own troubles to lessen his sympathy for his subjects in theirs, and the success which has attended relief measures in Kishangarh is largely due to the intelligent interest he took in all the details. I am glad to say he has left a very promising son.

Alwar.

12. The rainfall in the north, centre, and south of the State was fairly good during the early part of August, but the situation in the four eastern tahsils has given cause for some anxiety. Only partial showers fell there during the first half of the month, so that the young crops were ill-prepared to withstand the drought which followed. Only a slight decrease has occurred among the workers, and an increase of 6 per cent. is observable in the numbers on gratuitous relief. Although towards the middle of August the numbers on works had fallen from over 8,000 to under 5,000, the total during the last week of the month had again risen to 6,500. I have, however, reason to believe that the heavy rain of the first week in September has extended to the eastern tahsils, and has proved of much benefit.

Cholera has reappeared and claimed more victims during the month under review than in the previous quarter.

EASTERN RAJPUTANA STATES.

14. Karauli and Dholpur have continued to receive good rain, and all relief operations in Karauli have ceased. The physique of the people and condition of the cattle may now be described as normal. Although the monsoon was much delayed and the hilly tracts in both States suffered to some extent from a depletion of agricultural stock, there is every reason to hope that the area under kharif crops will be up to the average, while the harvest outturn should be exceptionally good. Up to the end of August the prospects in Bharatpur were not so promising. In at least two tahsils cultivation was carried on with difficulty, and the grass crop over nearly half the State was insufficient. On the 25th August, however, a wet period set in, during which Nagar and Pahari, the two worst districts, received each five inches of rain. This will revive the standing crops, will enable some late sowings to be made, and, what is almost more important, should ensure good pasturage. The numbers on relief have fallen by nearly one-third, from under 7,000 to about 4,500, but these figures were given before the recent beneficial rainfall.

AJMER-MERWARA.

15. Good rain fell all over the district during the beginning and middle of August. A break followed during the latter part of the month, but with the setting in of September there has been a fresh advance of the monsoon, and all anxiety as regards the kharif harvest has been removed. In spite of the long delay in the arrival of the monsoon, the rainfall generally is up to the average, while in the south of Ajmer it is in excess. The tanks and wells have filled, so that the prospects of the spring harvest are very hopeful. Over the whole district the workers have decreased by 41 per cent., but the totals on gratuitous relief have fallen by only 15 per cent. The variations between Ajmer and Merwara are very marked. In Ajmer all the relief works have been closed, but in Merwara upwards of 40,000 workers remain. Relief operations have now lasted in Merwara for over two years, and the question arises whether a large section of the population is not disposed to regard assistance from Government as the natural condition of life. I have addressed the Commissioner on this subject, and indicated the measures which may profitably be adopted to induce the people to resume their former habits. It would appear that most of the men have deserted the works, leaving the women and children to stay on until the ripening of the harvest, while many of the latter disappear from the works for one or two days in the week to help in weeding. The condition of the people in the district is good, but the high death rate in Ajmer city and suburbs continues. Cholera has not yet finally disappeared. The Commissioner reports that the wanderers from native states are physically much reduced, but the number of these persons cannot be large.

Towards the end of the month grain prices had a downward tendency, but the market will not recover its normal tone until the large dealers are in a position to ascertain the character of the kharif harvest over Upper India generally. At present two favourable indications may be noted ; prices are inclined to fall and the weekly import trade in food grains is so contracting as to be barely sufficient to meet pressing local demands.

GENERAL.

16. At the end of August the total of relief units in Rajputana was lower than it had been at any time during the previous ten months, and amounted to only 1·9 per cent. of the population as compared with 5·2 per cent. at the end of June. During August, Rajputana may be said to have entered on the second stage of its recuperation, and the fact that this narrative deals more with the development of agricultural operations than with the details of the various relief measures shows that good progress towards recovery is being made.

Your Excellency will gather from the foregoing paragraphs that the situation is distinctly hopeful over the whole province. I have lately journeyed by rail from Abu road to Udaipur, Ajmer, Bharatpur and Jaipur. The whole

country presents a marvellous transformation scene. Two months ago the land was a bare brown and arid desert; to-day, as far as the eye can reach, it is covered with crops and green pasture almost up to the edge of the sleepers. Stony hills which looked incapable of producing a blade of grass now appear a mass of tangled vegetation—rivers and nullahs are running, and pools of water are lying about.

A harvest more than sufficient for immediate wants is assured, and we may fairly anticipate that the sowing for the rabi will be carried out under very favourable conditions. But a considerable period must elapse before the province can recover its full measure of economic prosperity, and the process will necessitate a vigilant and careful administration on the part of the different Darbars. One of the most important measures to be undertaken to repair losses is the breeding and replacement of cattle, for which selected bulls and cows should be imported and distributed in favourable localities. It is, however, difficult to induce chiefs to take an interest in such matters which they have long been accustomed to allow to take care of themselves. Banjaras and cattle dealers have not yet appeared in any numbers owing to the difficulties of travel in the rains, but even when the withdrawal of the monsoon enables them to bring in cattle, their contributions will not go far to make up existing deficiencies.

Since I last wrote we have received a further allotment from the Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund of Rs. 3,75,000. The greater part of this sum has been distributed for the purchase of plough bullocks and seed grain.

The condition of the people generally has much improved, although cholera diarrhœa and dysentery continue to claim many victims.

No. 217.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3644-*I.-A., dated Simla, the* 1*st October*, 1901.

We should like to have a brief up-to-date report on the agricultural position and prospects in Rajputana, and to receive the earliest possible warning if there is cause for serious anxiety in any quarter.

No. 218.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, in the Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3620-*S., dated Mount Abu, the* 3*rd October*, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram No. 3644-I.-A., dated the 1st October, 1901, and in reply to report as follows:—

2. Kharif crops are withering or withered for want of rain, the need for which is universal. Prospects are generally unfavourable, except where irrigation from wells or tanks is possible. Commencement of operations for rabi has been reported in Alwar and Jaisalmer only, and the general shortness of the rainfall may, it is feared, arrest these elsewhere. Fodder and pasturage is sufficient everywhere. Agricultural stock is generally reported to be in good condition. It is to be remembered that in consequence of the large reduction in numbers of the cattle, owing to recent famine, a much smaller supply of fodder is now required than normally.

3. Prices of cheap staples show a general tendency to rise, but they are so far below 12 seers per rupee and range up to 20 seers.

4. The present general impression seems to be that although the prospects of a good kharif harvest have been lost in all states except Dholpur, Kotah, Jhallawar and Karauli, the failure will not be so great anywhere as to cause distress, except perhaps in a few small areas over which special watch is being kept, for instance, parts of Marwar.

5. No signs of emigration or restlessness have as yet been reported.

6. I am to add that measures have been taken by the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner to prevent being taken by surprise as follows :—

Political Officers in every State have been instructed to arrange with their respective Darbars to adopt the safeguards against the danger of unpreparedness prescribed in paragraph 24, Part VI., of the Report of the recent Famine Commission.

They are directed to report at once any unusual movements of flocks and herds in search of pasturage, and any unusual wandering of the people.

They are also to urge the Darbars to institute a system of registration both as regards numbers and destination of human beings and herds of cattle emigrating from the States, and to inform the Civil or Political Officers of the British District or Native State to which any emigration has taken place.

It has been explained to all the Darbars through Political Officers that the object in view is not to restrict but to organise and regulate emigration, and to maintain the protection due from the State to its subjects over emigrants after they have left its territory.

7. The views of the Government of India on the subject of the advantage to be gained by adopting the system of village works as the principal means of famine labour, as contained in paragraph 8 of their Resolution No. 12–43–30 in the Revenue and Agricultural Department (Famine) of the 26th August, 1901, have been communicated to all the Darbars, and the immediate preparation of revised programmes of such works for each State, advised.

8. In Ajmer-Merwara, action for the registration of emigrating herds of cattle and human beings has been taken, and the fullest effect is being given to all other requisite precautionary measures.

The local Revenue and Public Works officers, assisted by the Superintending Engineer on special duty for famine protective works and a staff of surveyors, are engaged in selecting and projecting a number of village works, principally improvements and additions to tanks, that will give suitable employment as village works if necessary to provide relief of the kind.

9. Detailed reports are now being called for of the prospects of Ajmer-Merwara, and of each State, on the receipt of which a further report will be submitted to the Government of India.

10. The rainfall has been particularly short in parts of Marwar, Sirohi, Bundi, Tonk, Shahpura, Alwar, Kishengarh, Bharatpur, and Ajmer-Merwara. The two British districts have had about half the normal rainfall.

No. 219.

Extract of Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3801-I-A., dated Simla, the 14th October, 1901.

Your Works letter 3620-S., October 3rd. Prospects in Rajputana. What is wanted just now is correct information, and it appears to Government of India that it would be an advantage, as a measure of precaution, to depute a special officer to make a rapid tour of the country, and to report on the actual outturn of the kharif, the prospects of sowing the rabi, and the existence of signs of distress. The course of prices should receive his careful attention, he

should have had sufficient revenue experience to form a rough judgment of agricultural prospects, and a man with actual experience of famine is required.

No. 220.

Extract of Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 5473-G., dated Abu, the 15th October, 1901.

Your telegram, 3801-I.-A.—I concur fully as to advantage of deputation of special officer to examine and report on crop prospects over affected area in Rajputana. If available, I would suggest Beville as being well suited by experience and qualifications for the appointment. I am submitting further report very shortly on the fresh information now collected. The position, though serious, is not so immediately threatening anywhere as it was at commencement of the last period of distress.

No. 221.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3926-I.-A., dated Simla, the 27th October, 1901.

Your telegram 5473-G., October 15th.—Please expedite the promised further report which will presumably show to what extent position has improved owing to recent rain, and which should give your revised opinion as to question whether deputation of special officer is now necessary, and if necessary, when he should be appointed.

No. 222.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla. No. 4092, dated Abu, the 28th October, 1901.

Your telegram No. 3926-I.-A. I am in constant communication with Political Officers and Commissioner Ajmer, but official reports delay probably by change in conditions due to recent general fall of rain. I hope to submit a further detailed report about the 3rd proximo. At present, anxiety regarding any immediate occurrence of distress is confined to hilly tracts of Mewar where resident is making personal enquires. So far as I am at present informed, the deputation of a special officer for famine administration or enquiry may be deferred until 1st December.

No. 223.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4278 S., dated Mount Abu, the 5th November, 1901.

In continuation of my telegram in the Public Works Department, No. 4092, dated 28th October, 1901, I have the honour, by direction, to submit the

following report on the agricultural situation, crop prospects, and the proposed arrangements for famine relief, when the necessity arises, in the Native States of Rajputana. A similar report dealing with the districts of Ajmer-Merwara is being submitted separately.

2. *Rainfall.*—The marginal table shows the actual rainfall in each State from 1st June to end of October, 1901, as compared with the average rainfall. There has been a deficiency of rainfall almost throughout the province, and though there is no State which has not suffered from the irregular course and premature cessation of the monsoon, the failure of the kharif crops has been most marked in Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Kishangarh, a great part of Marwar, Sirohi, Mewar, the States in the Haraoti and Tonk Agency and a portion of Jaipur and Bharatpur. Apart from the short outturn due to want of rain, great damage has been done to the kharif crop by rats and locusts. Rats have made their appearance this year in extraordinary numbers, and, as a source of damage will, it is believed, have in many places to be reckoned with in connection with the rabi crop from the time that the seed is put into the ground.

—	1901.	Average.
Bikaner	5·54	10·47
Marwar	6·88	13·25
Jaisalmer	5·44	7·18
Sirohi	6·30	22·83
Mewar	17·11	25·67
Kherwara	11·34	26·99
Shahpura	13·52	16·20
Tonk	9·39	16·66
Bundi	17·28	Not known.
Kota	19·50	29·10
Jhalawar	31·04	37·39
Jaipur	14·12	24·12
Kishangarh	9·80	Not known.
Alwar	12·79	29·61
Bharatpur	13·23	25·34
Karauli	26·58	29·65
Dholpur	23·23	Not known.
Average	14·30	22·61

3. *Kharif outturn.*—As far as can be gathered from the general terms in which the information is available, the return on the area sown for the kharif in Bikaner and Western Rajputana is between half an anna in Jaisalmer, one anna in Bikaner, two annas in Sirohi, and four annas in Marwar. In the Bhil country in the Hilly Tracts of Mewar, the outturn is estimated at two annas, and severe distress is apprehended there. No figures have yet come to hand from Tonk, but I understand that the crops there have suffered severely. In the Bundi State, the harvest gathered over an area of 1,841 square miles is between six and eight annas and 12 annas over the rest. The estimated outturn in Kishangarh is only four annas; in Kota and the Shahpura Chiefship eight annas, and in Jhalawar something less than the normal. No estimates of the harvest have yet been furnished for the States of Dungarpur, Banswara, but Partabgarh reports that the Banswara Bhils are in an unsettled condition, and have commenced raiding over portions of the adjacent States of Central India and Partabgarh. At the same time the earlier reports of the crop prospects in these States were not altogether unfavourable.

In the affected tahsils of Malpura and Sambhar of Jaipur, an outturn of about seven or eight annas in the rupee is expected, and in the eastern tahsils of that State 12 annas. In the Bharatpur State the kharif harvest in the Bharatpur and Kumher Tahsils has been a poor one, but it was somewhat better in the rest of the State. In Alwar and Karauli, the outturn is between 8 and 11 annas; in Dholpur 12 annas.

4. *Rabi prospects.*—The prospects of rabi over some of the above-mentioned areas are also bad. The rabi cultivation in Bikaner and Jaisalmer is restricted to about $\frac{1}{17}$th of the normal, and in Sirohi to one-half. The Marwar Darbar anticipate rabi sowings of $\frac{9}{16}$ths of the normal.

In the Hilly Tracts of Mewar rabi will only be sown on the banks of rivers and in the beds of tanks. The rabi sowings in Kota and Jhalawar will be about seven-eighths of the normal, and in Shahpura one-half. It is reported that in Kishangarh the want of rain in September and October has rendered the soil too hard to admit of rabi cultivation, except in the beds of tanks and round wells, and not more than a five or six annas rabi crop is at present anticipated. In Bundi, between 6 and 12 annas crop is expected. But the whole aspect of the rabi crops here and elsewhere may be altered for the better by seasonable rains in November and December. In the Bharatpur and Kumher Tahsils of the Bharatpur State, a very small area will be cultivated for the rabi, but in the other tahsils possibly the normal area. Alwar, Karauli and Dholpur also expect almost normal rabi sowings, and Jaipur more than half the normal.

5. *Effect of recent rain.*—The rainfall towards the end of October, 1901, which is shown in the margin, has been very beneficial to the cotton crops and the low lands in Kishangarh. In the Malpura Tahsil of Jaipur, it has given a stimulus to the rabi operations, as also in the Karauli and Bharatpur States. But where, as in Sirohi and parts of Jaipur, owing to the depredations of the locusts the injury to the crops was past remedy, there has not been much change in the situation. Taking the whole of Rajputana into consideration, unless a seasonable rainfall occurs in the winter, it would not, I think, be safe to hope for a contraction of the affected area as above described.

—	Rainfall.
Marwar	0·56
Kherwara...	0·64
Shahpura	0·39
Tonk	1·55
Bundi	1·22
Kota	0·26
Jaipur	0·91
Kishangarh	0·50
Alwar	0·42
Bharatpur	2·35
Karauli	2·40
Dholpur	0·74

6. *Food-stocks, fodder, &c.*—Fortunately, however, as previously reported, fodder and pasturage are sufficient everywhere, and the condition of the agricultural live stock continues to be good. There seems to be no cause for anxiety on the score of water-supply; with one exception the stocks of food-grains are reported to be sufficient, or are being replenished by imports. The exception is in the case of the Hilly Tracts of Mewar where the stocks are reported to be inadequate for local requirements, but it is understood that fresh supplies are being imported from Udaipur.

Prices.—The prices of the cheapest grains range from 22½ seers in the Bundi State to 11¼ in the Hilly Tracts of the Mewar State. The average price of the cheapest grain (arrived at by adding together the prices prevailing in each State and dividing by the total number of States) is at the end of October, 1901, 16 seers per rupee, as compared with 14 seers last year, 9¾ seers in the famine year of 1899, and 25 seers in the scarcity year 1898, for the corresponding week in each case. In comparing the above prices, it should be remembered that in October, 1900, famine was just over, and though in October prices were still high, they went down with a run in November to normal figures.

Present occupation of agricultural classes.

The agricultural population for the present finds sufficient work in gathering such crops as are left, fodder firewood and jungle products, or are repairing and deepening their wells by means of taccavi loans advanced by the bohras or the State. Instances of taccavi advances reported are as follows:—Jaipur, Kishangarh, Alwar and Bharatpur. The Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General hopes that no general necessity will arise for opening relief

works until about January, 1902, or later in some places, provided taccavi loans and other subsidiary relief measures are freely applied.

Need for relief in the Hilly Tracts, Mewar.

7. In the Bhil country of Mewar the outlook is less hopeful. Here relief in some shape will be required before the month of December. From the shy and timid nature of the Bhil, famine relief in those parts is, as experience taught last famine, a very difficult problem. The difficulties are enhanced by bad communications, and the financial embarrassments of the petty Chiefs, who hold that part of the country under the suzerainty of His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur. Major Pinhey has advised the Maharana to advance to these Chiefs the funds required for famine relief purposes, but recommends that an experienced Government Engineer, following the precedent of Mr. Wakefield's employment in Bednaur and Deogarh in the famine of 1899–1900, should be deputed to assist the Political Superintendent in organising relief works and supervising their execution. I am awaiting the results of Major Pinhey's correspondence with His Highness on the subject of these proposals, and am inlined to think that His Highness will, by assisting the Chiefs himself, render it unnecessary to apply to the Government of India for a famine loan.

Major Pinhey is now at Kherwara, and will report shortly on the measures proposed for relief.

8. *Famine loans.*—The question of famine loans to those Native States which may need assistance will form the subject of a separate communication. As already reported in my telegram No. 4111, dated the 29th October, 1901, I do not anticipate that more than two lakhs of rupees will be required within the next two months under this head. But all Political Officers have been addressed on the subject, and I am awaiting formal applications from the Darbars for such loans.

No. 224.

Telegram from Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Mount Abu, No. 4199 I.-A., dated the 13th November, 1901.

Your Works letter 4278 S., November 5th, appears to indicate that there is now no serious cause for anxiety, except in Mewar Hilly Tracts, where Pinhey will no doubt make satisfactory arrangements. I assume that October rains resulted in large increase of rabi sowings, especially as average provincial rate for cheapest grain was reported at nearly 17 seers the rupee on 5th November, against 15½ seers on 26th October, and under 10 seers in October, 1899. It seems probable that there may be a demand for relief next month in Bikaner, parts of Sirohi, Marwar, Kishangarh, and perhaps in Jaipur. You will no doubt advise the Darbars concerned to complete their arrangements for opening poor-houses whenever required. It appears reasonable to hope that relief works proper will hardly be necessary on any large scale, and that liberal taccavi advances, with organised grass-cutting operations and expansion of ordinary public works programmes, should suffice in most parts. Please let me know your own plans. If you could make a rapid tour to central points on railway within threatened area, your experience of famine and knowledge of the province would probably enable you to gauge the situation and might render the deputation of a special officer unnecessary. It would be an advantage if your future reports included statistics of rail-borne traffic in grain.

No. 225.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 6095 *G., dated* 18*th November*, 1901.

Your telegram, No. 4199 I.-A., of 13th instant. Latest reports from Resident, Mewar, have necessitated application, as already submitted, for famine loan for Hilly Tracts as urgent measure owing to failure of resourses of Bhumat Chiefs an impossibility of procuring grain supplies locally for relief purposes. No immediate commencement of actual distress anticipated elsewhere by latest reports. October rains reported to have benefited cotton crops considerably, and assisted rabi cultivation of tank beds and low lands to certain extent. Falls generally insufficient to materially alter position, but much will depend on winter rainfall. Taccavi advances have been liberally arranged for in Ajmer, Merwara and in some Native States, but detailed reports not yet received. I am leaving for Ajmer to-morrow, and have arranged my tour so as to include areas most unfavourably reported on. Shall reach Kherwara early in December and proceed thence *viâ* Dungarpur, Banswara and Partabgarh to Haraoti and Tonk Agency. Will keep you informed of condition each district visited, but consider severe distress inevitable in areas affected remote from railway, more specially in smaller States under Mewara Residency and Bhils tracts generally. Anticipate services of Special Famine Assistant to carry on Secretariat work, and help in duties of supervision of relief measures in Native States will be necessary before end of December.

No. 226.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana in the Public Works Department, Abu, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 4480, *dated the* 15*th November*, 1901.

Reference this office No. 4278, dated 5th. Resident, Mewar, reports urgent need of relief in Hilly Tracts in December, on basis of estimated three-anna kharif crop and very limited rabi cultivation owing to ravages of rats and deficient moisture. It is doubtful whether negotiations for advances to Bhumat Chiefs can be completed with Mewar Darbar without considerable delay, whilst Resident considers it urgently necessary to provide funds immediately for preliminary expenditure, including importation of grain for relief works. Under these circumstances, Colonel Thornton solicits sanction by wire for famine loan of Rs. 50,000 to be placed at the disposal of Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, at the Ajmer Treasury on terms to be arranged hereafter between the Bhumat Chiefs and the Mewar Darbar. The above to be included in the two lakhs already reported as possibly required for famine loans to Native States.

No. 227.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Camp, No: 4281 *I.-A., dated the* 20*th November*, 1901.

Your telegram 4480, November 15th. Loan of Rs. 50,000 sanctioned for expenditure on famine relief in Mewar Hilly Tracts. Terms to be arranged hereafter.

No. 228.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General in the Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 451 *S.C., dated Ajmer, the* 23*rd November*, 1901.

(1) To the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4480, dated 15th November 1901.
(2) From the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4281 I.A., dated 20th November, 1901.

In continuation of telegrams as per margin on the subject of a famine loan of Rs. 50,000 for relief in the territories of the Bhumat Chiefs in the Hilly Tracts of Mewar, I am directed to submit the following further particulars regarding the coming scarcity and the proposed measures of relief in that country.

2. The results of the kharif harvest and the prospects of the rabi are shown in the following table :—

Estates.	Total area.	Kharif.	Rabi.
	Sqr. mile.	Annas.	Annas.
Jawas	50	3	2
Para	60	2	Nil.
Madri	100	3	4 to 6
Chani	30	2	2
Thana	45	2	Nil.
Jura	500	The failure of the kharif harvest, and the prospects of the next spring harvest are no less serious in these than in the other estates.	
Panurwa	400		
Oghna	365		

3. It is reported that the stocks of grain with the dealers will be exhausted by the end of December. The water-supply will, it is expected, hold out for drinking purposes, but is insufficient in some places for irrigating the rabi. The plague of rats has further reduced the possibilities of rabi cultivation and so great is the multitude of these animals that, as Major Pinhey reports, it is dangerous on account of the innumerable rat holes to ride along the roads. Fodder is said to be sufficient at present, but jungle-fires lighted by the people, with the idea of destroying the rats, are becoming frequent, and are rapidly consuming the grass.

4. There has been some hesitation on the part of the Mewar Darbar in accepting the Resident's proposals regarding the terms on which the Darbar should advance the required money to the Chiefs, and it was, therefore, found necessary, in view of the growing distress, to apply to the Supreme Government for assistance, leaving the question of repayment or adjustment of the loan for future settlement. A further communication will be made on this subject when the provisional negotiations have proceeded further.

5. The probable requirements of the Bhumat Chiefs are shown in the following table:—

Estate.	Amount required.
	Rs. (British currency.)
Jawas	13,530
Para	6,060
Madri	3,370
Chani	2,420
Thana	2,420
Jura	9,090
Panurwa	7,050
Oghna	6,060
Total	50,000

6. With regard to relief measures, the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General proposes to follow the same lines as were followed in the famine of 1899-1900, and to place the administration of relief in the hands of Major Dawson, the Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar. A programme of works has been drawn up, and gratuitous relief will be provided as necessary. A competent British Engineer officer will be required to assist Major Dawson in the organisation and supervision of relief works, and Colonel Thornton takes this opportunity of requesting that an Assistant Engineer, one, if possible, who has already had some famine experience, may be placed at his disposal for this purpose as soon as possible. The cost of this officer's deputation might, it is suggested, be borne by the Supreme Government in view of the fact that Chiefs are not in a position to afford the charge.

7. The scheme of relief also includes the importation of grain for use on famine relief works in all the estates except Oghna. It is alleged by the local officers that the general objections to State interference with local trade do not apply to the case of the Hilly Tracts of Mewar. A description of the country need not be given here, as the Government of India are aware of its nature—wild, mountainous and remote from the railway. The condition of its roads, where there are any, is bad, and, as the Resident reports, the hire of a cart from Udaipur to Kherwara has already risen from Rs. 8 to Rs. 25. The petty local traders have expressed to the Resident their inability to cope with the difficulties of the situation. The Honourable the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General is, therefore, constrained to accept the proposal to import grain—a measure which is supported by the precedent of 1899-1900, when Rs. 70,000 were advanced by the Government of India for the purchase and sale of grain to the local dealers.

No. 229.

Letter from G. G. White, Esq., M.I.C.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor General in the Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 734, *S.C., dated Camp Goda, the* 31*st December*, 1901.

In continuation of this office letter No. 4278 S., dated 5th November 1901, and with reference to your telegram No. 581 C., dated 14th December 1901, calling for report on the general situation in the Native States of Rajputana I

am directed to state that the areas and population affected by the failure of the last *kharif* crops are as shown in the table beneath :—

Name of State or Chiefship.	Total area. Sq. Miles.	Total Population.	Affected area. Sq. Miles.	Affected Population.
Bikaner	23,311	584,627	23,311	584,627
Marwar	34,963	1,935,565	16,904	712,664
Jaisalmer	16,062	73,370	16,062	73,370
Sirohi	1,964	154,544	1,964	154,544
Mewar, excluding Bhumat Hilly Tracts.	11,203	995,005	Not reported.	
Bhumat Hilly Tracts, Mewar ...	1,550	35,207	1,550	35,207
Partabgarh	886	52,025	Not reported.	
Banswara	1,606	149,128		
Kushalgarh	340	16,222		
Dungarpur	1,447	100,103	1,447	100,103
Shahpura	405	42,676	Not reported.	
Bundi	2,220	171,227	935	43,000
Tonk	1,114	143,330	977	126,168
Lawa	19	2,671	19	2,671
Jaipur	15,579	2,658,666	3,057	295,346
Kishangarh	858	90,970	858	90,970
Bharatpur	1,982	626,665	137	47,635

2. Conditions in Kotah and Jhallawar show no signs of scarcity. In Kotah, fodder is abundant and the gram crop covering a large area is looking well. The "Jao" crop in Jhallawar has also greatly improved.

3. The Alwar State Council report that there has been a change for the better since October last. No distress whatever is apparent in any part of the State.

4. The Dholpur State also has no cause for anxiety at present, but the hilly portion of the Bari and Baseri tehsils may feel a want of fodder later on. The area likely to be so affected is estimated at 300 square miles with a population of between 15,000 and 20,000.

5. The last of the States where no scarcity is apprehended is Karauli. The outturn of the *kharif* harvest in this State is said to be about 12 annas in the rupee. The revenue demand is being paid in by the cultivators without difficulty, and the *rabi* sowings are about three-fourth of the normal.

—	Number.
To Punjab	25,628
„ Sind	14,800
„ Jaipur	256
„ Marwar...	12
„ North-Western Provinces ...	125
„ Unknown places	6,448
Within Bikaner State	1,512
Total	48,781

6. Turning to the States included in the table at paragraph 1 above, the whole State of Bikaner is likely to be more or less affected. A large emigration, as shown in the margin, has taken place since the first indications of scarcity up to 23rd November, 1901. But the Darbar reports that these numbers are not as yet so high as those which ordinarily leave the country to seek agricultural employment during the winter months in other districts.

The remaining population are reported to find subsistence for the present by the collection of grass and fodder for sale, whilst such of them as possess means hope to be able to tide over the hard times, thanks to the cheapness of food-grains. No relief measures have therefore so far become necessary. His Highness the Maharaja and the Diwan are touring in different directions in order to gauge the necessities of the situation. In the meantime the Darbar have somewhat expanded their ordinary public works in the capital, on which about 1,500 able-bodied labourers are employed.

7. The Marwar Darbar has opened three test-works for the benefit of the criminal tribes. The number of persons employed on these at the end of November last was 249, excluding 311 persons paid under the ordinary contract system. The Darbar had also under consideration when its report for November was made out, the establishment of poor-houses at Barmer, Erinpura Road, Nawa and Bure. From the copy of the famine statement for November herewith enclosed, it will be observed that 79,475 persons have left the country.

Assuming that none have escaped registration, the number recorded represents 10 per cent. of the affected population. It is, however, known that practically the whole of these emigrants have gone to cultivate land or to find a subsistence by labour in Sind where the Nara valley canal works and other similar projects furnish a practically inexhaustible amount of remunerative employment. No complaints of pauperism or destitution amongst these emigrants have been received from the authorities in Sind with whom this office is in constant communication.

8. In the Jaisalmer State, the whole of which is returned as affected, the *kharif* outturn, as already reported, was a very poor one, about half an anna in the rupee, and the prospects of the *rabi* are equally unfavourable. In the three weeks ending the 7th December, 1901, 3,299 persons and 76 animals had left the country. The same remarks, however, apply to this emigration as above given for Marwar. The Darbar, moreover, proposes to open relief measures if any necessity arises in January, 1902.

9. The seriously affected area in the Sirohi State comprises the two tehsils of Jhorakharal and Magra where the present drought has been more pronounced than in the other tehsils, but up to the present time no necessity for opening test-works or introducing any special relief measures has been reported. There are, however, indications that some degree of distress will shortly have to be combated both in the above areas and in other portion of the State, but the State authorities have been kept on the alert, and the special attention of the Resident has been directed to the supervision of the Bhil and Grassia tracts in which Colonel Thornton considers relief measures will probably be required within the next few weeks.

The Sirohi Darbar has asked for and obtained a famine loan of Rs. 50,000 from the Government of India, the first instalment amounting to Rs. 20,000, being payable on the 1st January, 1902, so that relief arrangements can be started immediately they are required.

10. The report received from the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, shows that although the Bharatpur Council have provided funds and selected relief works to be commenced in the event of any signs of distress occurring, the affected area is confined to portions of two tehsils whilst the condition of the State as a whole is satisfactory, and no apprehension of any serious development of distress need be entertained.

11. The Bundi Darbar apprehends scarcity in three tehsils lying in the hilly portion of the State where only a six-anna harvest was reaped, and the area sown for the *rabi* is about one-third of the normal. The Darbar does not, however, consider that relief measures are required at present. In the remaining tehsils the *kharif* outturn was between 8 and 12 annas, and the tanks and wells are fairly full to secure a *rabi* harvest in the same proportion. Speaking generally, there is much private demand for agricultural labour, but the numbers in the labouring class are so reduced, in consequence no doubt of the large mortality of 1899-1900, that it cannot keep the demand supplied.

12. Reporting on Shahpura in November last, Captain Prideaux stated that here the conditions were probably more serious than in Bundi, the water in

the tanks and wells was very low and the prospects of the *rabi*, as sowings were much restricted, were bad. More recent information received from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, goes, however, to show that the apprehension felt in November has been to a large extent dissipated by the more accurate information since obtained as to the *rabi* prospects. It is now anticipated that although a considerable falling off in the average revenue of the Chiefship will have to be faced, there will be no serious scarcity or demand for relief works. At the same time provision has been made for giving relief to those requiring it in isolated cases. The Government loan of Rs. 35,000 sanctioned for famine purposes will not therefore be required unless distress occurs unexpectedly towards the close of the hot weather.

13. Although there has been a serious failure of crops in the Tonk and Nimbahera parganas of the Tonk State, it is stated by the Land Revenue Superintendent of the State that the only administrative action required for the present is the suspension of the land revenue demand, and that by doing this the necessity for relief works will have been deferred until a month or two before the rains break ; but that if such suspensions be not granted, relief works on a large scale will be required in February 1902. The Darbar as yet has given no opinion on the situation. From the information available Mr. Edwards reports that there will be no need to start any form of relief for the present or for some time to come.

14. The average outturn of the *kharif* in Kishengarh was $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas. The *rabi* estimates are less than 6 annas on the whole. In no tehsil did the *kharif* outturn amount to more than $5\frac{1}{4}$ annas, nor does the *rabi* promise to be more than 7 annas anywhere.

The State Council have shown their alertness by opening test works in two tehsils worst affected, and the same will be done in the other two tehsils a few weeks later when agricultural work ceases. Over 400 persons are already in receipt of gratuitous relief in villages, the expenditure being met from private subscriptions. The numbers, it is anticipated, will eventually rise to 1,000, while the number of people requiring relief on works is estimated at 6,000. The Resident is satisfied that every possible effort is being made to afford relief in the coming months.

15. As much cannot be said of Jaipur, Mr. Cobb states that he cannot view the present position of affairs there without considerable misgivings. It seems that both His Highness the Maharaja and the Resident would have been left almost entirely in the dark as to the present scarcity if, at the Resident's strong request, special officers had not been sent out to the affected area. Severe scarcity has to be faced in Malpura and Sambhar, and the failure of crops over a considerable portion of Shekawati is as complete as it was during the last famine. The Resident proposes to visit Malpura and Sambhar, but in the meantime he has strongly urged on the Revenue Member of the Council the necessity of making early arrangements for famine relief.

The Honourable the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General has arranged to tour during the next fortnight through the affected Malpura tehsil and will then be in a better position to report on the sufficiency or otherwise of the measures initiated by the Jaipur Darbar. He has, however, no reason to apprehend any more severe or immediate distress in Jaipur than in other affected States in Rajputana.

16. No report has been received from Lawa of the precise present condition of this petty Chiefship, but sanction has been received for a Government famine loan of Rs. 5,000 to meet any possible emergency, and Colonel Thornton hopes to be able visit the estate or at least to interview the Thakur and his officials during his present tour.

17. No detailed report have yet been received from Mewar, Partabgarh, Banswara or Kushalgarh, but from the information collected by Colonel Thornton during his present tour through the above States (except Kushalgarh) the position of affairs has nowhere reached a critical stage.

In Mewar, the areas most affected are undoubtedly the hilly Bhil tracts in the south and west of the State. Relief works have been opened in the Bhumat

Chiefships under the Kherwara and Kotra Superintendencies where the failure of the *kharif* harvest is known to have been very general, whilst owing to the enormous numbers of the field rats which have spread over the whole country. no possibility of cultivating any *rabi* crop exists. The above indisputable facts fully justify the apprehension that distress of a more or less widespread and intense character must be experienced as the hot season approaches, but up to the present time no signs of insufficiency of food or physical deterioration were met with either in the Khalsa or Bhumat areas of Mewar.

18. The same remarks apply to Dungarpur and Banswara which were traversed by the Honourable the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General from end to end. Grain was being freely imported into all the States, but it is believed that the cultivating classes had still a proportion of the "mukki" crop of the last *kharif* harvest stored in their houses on which they were subsisting. It is also hoped that the mohwa crop may prove of material assistance in maintaining the foodstocks, but it was to early to form an estimate of this source of supply as the trees had not begun to flower.

The relief arrangements in Dungarpur are well advanced, and a loan of Rs. 50,000, of which the first instalment of Rs. 30,000 will be available on the 1st January, has been sanctioned by Government. One large test work had been opened in the Genji Zillah of Dungarpur at the time of Colonel Thornton's visit, but particulars of the numbers employed or of the precise conditions under which admissions to the work was regulated were not available at the time, though it is believed that the arrangements for enforcing a strict compliance with the rules prescribed for the conduct of such works have since been carried into effect as directed.

19. The prevailing conditions in Banswara were similar to those met with in Kherwara and Dungarpur, but fortunately the prospects of any severe distress in the future are slightly more favourable than in the latter States, for owing to financial disorder and the apathy and misgovernment of the present Chief regarding which a separate report is under preparation, no provision for famine relief expenditure has yet been made in this State. This matter is under investigation and elaboration by the special Assistant Resident, Captain Hamilton, and the Resident in Mewar, Major Pinhey, whose proposals will be submitted as soon as the enquiry is complete.

In Pertabgarh, the conditions are distinctly more favourable owing to the comparative slightness of the plague of rats and the prospects of a moderate *rabi* which only requires an average fall of rain to become secure.

In the event of this reasonable anticipation being realised it is hoped that relief measures may be altogether unnecessary in this State, but in any event the Darbar is prepared to carry out relief measures to the extent that may be required with the aid of the financial assistance recently given to the State by the Government of India.

20. The present conditions for the whole of Rajputana, excluding Ajmer Merwara, which is being separately dealt with, may therefore be summarised as follows:—

In no State has anything approaching actual present distress calling for extensive relief measures, as yet been reported or met with, and all the action taken up to this time has been of a precautionary measure. At the same time it is practically certain that more or less distress of a widespread character will have to be coped with in the Bhil and Grassite tracts of Sirohi-Mewar, Dungarpur and Banswara. In Jaipur certain of the tehsils on the western and northern border, the whole of Kishengarh and certain parts of Tonk, and possibly of Mewar, will become seriously affected and require the application of relief measures as the hot season progresses. With the exception of Mewar, which may require further supervision, all of the above Darbars have taken active steps to ascertain the probable amount of relief that will be required and to provide for its application, or are being impelled to this course by the Political Officers in charge of them.

In Marwar, Bikaner and Jaisalmer, it is probable that extensive emigration will reduce the necessity for relief measures to a minimum, but here also the

Darbars concerned are on the alert and have framed a scheme of operations to meet any emergency which may arise. All the Darbars affected by the anticipated distress have been offered pecuniary assistance to supplement their own resources, and loans have been arranged for all applicants with due regard to their financial position, and after full enquiry into the probable requirements of each State so far as our present information will permit.

No. 230.

Note by Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, on the subject of the construction of tanks for irrigation purposes in Rajputana, dated Mount Abu, the 27th October, 1900.

The question of water-supply varies greatly in importance in different parts of the province. In the vast sandy tracts to the west of the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, comprising the States of Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer, scarcity of water for six months in the year may be said to be a natural condition of the country, while in central and north-east Rajputana the rainfall is precarious and capricious. On the other hand, in the more favoured States to the south-east, such as Kota, Jhalawar, Mewar, Partabgarh, Banswara and Dungarpur, a moderate to good rainfall is experienced, and severe drought only occurs at long intervals.

2. The following table, compiled from the administration reports, shows the sums devoted to irrigation works (including wells) during the last five years :—

State.	1894–95.	1895–96.	1896–97.	1897–98.	1898–99.	Total.	Average.	Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Bikaner	15,230	21,596	17,180	6,18,677*	2,784	6,75,467	1,35,093	*Including cost of the Ghaggar canal.
Marwar	1,22,897	1,53,405	24,789	1,117	?	3,02,208	60,441	
Jaisalmer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Sirohi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Mewar	30,000	22,800	46,219	54,680	30,606	1,84,305	36,861	
Dungarpur... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Banswara	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Partabgarh ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Kushalgarh ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Shahpura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tonk	809	—	—	—	—	809	161	
Bundi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Kota	38,032	29,577	10,253	18,926	39,780	1,36,568	27,313	
Jhalawar	3,511	—	1,219	15,020	25,950	45,700	9,140	
Jaipur	2,56,779	1,53,435	1,40,465	1,97,435	2,93,568	10,41,682	2,08,336	
Kishangarh ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Alwar	29,862	87,279	1,02,521	1,05,899	1,00,920	4,26,481	85,296	
Bharatpur	—	1,00,000	1,98,000	1,88,780	65,000	5,51,780	1,10,356	
Karauli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dholpur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	4,97,120	5,68,092	5,40,646	12,00,534	5,58,608	33,65,000	6,72,997	

This table, although not exhaustive, shows that the Native States have been spending nearly 7 lakhs a year on irrigation, of which about 80 per cent. has been spent by the western, central and north-eastern States.

3. Most of the Rajputana rivers and tanks are fed by rain and rain only; therefore, when the monsoons fail, the rivers and tanks fail also. It follows that, while in years of ordinary rainfall tanks are undoubtedly of the greatest value in raising the crop production and increasing the resources of the Darbars and the people, it is possible to over-rate their utility as a protection against famine.

In the little British district of Merwara, a capital outlay of Rs. 8,77,885 has been incurred and almost every available site for a tank taken up, yet in no part of Rajputana has the stress of the recent famine been more acutely felt, as evidenced by the presence at one time of over 58 per cent. of the population on relief.

In Western Rajputana, which is more or less of a desert, nature is for ever struggling against man, and where the latter by the artificial contrivance of a water-supply increases the population, he at the same time adds to his difficulties when the rains hold off by the larger number of people he has to support.

In Jaisalmer, where the rainfall averages 6½ inches and the population is 7 to the square mile, the generally sandy soil allows of no run-off of water; the formation of large tanks or reservoirs is, I believe, impossible, and the levels do not admit of a canal from the Indus. During the monsoon, according as the rains are favourable, two small streams, the Kahni and the Loathi-ka-Nadi, rise and run for a shorter or longer distance before losing themselves in the sand; but I doubt if they can be turned to account, and an inspection of their course in the dry season would probably not supply the needful information. In his famine note on Jaisalmer, Major Dunlop-Smith writes :—

"There is very little arable soil, cultivation being practically confined to the hollow depressions known as 'kharins' which lie to the east and north-west of the capital. There is no artificial irrigation and only rain crops, such as bajra, jawar and til, are grown. There is practically no rabi harvest. As the rainfall is so scanty and the culturable patches of soil are so few and far between, agriculture may be said to be of comparatively small concern to the most of the rural population, whose well-being depends for the most part on the numbers and condition of their cattle. The majority are a hard and thrifty race who lead a nomadic life for the best part of the year, grazing their flocks and herds."

4. The following States possess the services of Engineers :—

Jaipur	... Colonel S. S. Jacob.
Jodhpur	... Mr. Walter Home.
Alwar	... Mr. Macdonald.
Bharatpur	... Mr. Devenish.
Kota and Jhalawar	... Mr. Tickell.
Mewar	... Mr. Lillie, chiefly for the Udaipur-Chitor Railway.
Tonk ...	... Mr. Wakefield (about to join).
Bikaner	... Mr. Clarke (Mining and General).
Dholpur	... Mr. Thorpe.

The States which may be said to lack Engineers are :—

Bundi.	Partabgarh.
Dungarpur.	Karauli.
Banswara.	Kishangarh.
Sirohi.	

The two last are fully alive to the value of irrigation works and have spent large sums on tanks which are not entered in the table given in the earlier part of this note. Sirohi has lately had the services of Mr. Knight and of Pandit Sham Nath, Executive Engineer, Mount Abu, under whose direction several big tanks have been undertaken.

Karauli enjoys an average rainfall of nearly 44 inches, is watered by the Chambal, and since the famine of 1868-69 has not suffered from famine.

5. The States, of which we know least in respect to possible irrigation projects are :—

Bundi,	Banswara,*
Dungarpur,*	Partabgarh,

* These States are watered by the Mahi and the Som which are perennial streams.

all of which have been more or less affected by the late famine, and if the Government of India would be so good as to lend an officer with special irrigation experience to tour through these States during the present cold season, he might be able to throw valuable light on the subject under consideration—his attention might be more particularly directed to utilizing the streams which water these States by constructing dams across them. This has been effected with great success in Jodhpur by Mr. Home in the case of the Luni river at Bilara, where a lake has been created measuring approximately just now 7 miles in length and 4 in breadth.

6. The rains in Rajputana are so partial and capricious that I do not think any officer in the course of a hurried tour could express a useful opinion on the best sites for the storage of rain-water without precise figures, giving the rainfall in the catchment area for several years past.

The number of tanks in Ajmer-Merwara which pay no interest on the capital outlay show how difficult it is to frame remunerative projects, even when accurate figures are supposed to be available. As an instance, I may mention that a feeder channel constructed by Mr. Joscelyne (then Executive Engineer) in Ajmer about 1883, for the purpose of increasing the water-supply of the Anasagar lake only ran effectively for the first time this year, and the Kair tank in Ajmer made in the famine of 1891-92 at a cost of about two lakhs of rupees with a catchment area of 19 square miles had never even half filled up to this year.

7. In the event of an officer being deputed, I would recommend that he begin work in Partabgarh, which is easily reached from the Mandesaur Railway Station on the Nasirabad-Indore line, and that he march thence through Banswara to Dungarpur. This last State is under our management.

All four States are poor and three* are more or less financially embarrassed. It is not within their power to pay for the services of an experienced Engineer, and the assistance it is suggested they should receive would be well bestowed, and I believe much appreciated by the Darbars. I have not, however, yet consulted the Chiefs on the subject.

* Bundi, Partabgarh and Banswara.

No. 231.

Letter from T. C. Edwards, Esq., Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 175 I.-A. dated Fort William, the 11th January, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your note, dated the 27th October 1900, on the subject of irrigation works in Rajputana.

2. The Government of India agree with you as to the desirability of deputing an experienced officer to report on possible irrigation projects in Bundi, Dungarpur, Banswara and Partabgarh, and, very likely, in others of the States in addition; but they regret that it is impossible to spare a qualified officer during the remainder of the present cold weather season. Endeavour will be made to depute such an officer in the cold weather of 1901-1902. In the meantime, it would be useful if, during the intervening period, the Darbars of all the Rajputana States were invited to submit through their engineers or through such officers or persons as might be thought best qualified for the task, a report, with maps, tables of cost, &c., of the existing works, complete or incomplete, within their several areas, as well as a rough sketch of such future projects as seem to the local authorities to be worthy of examination or execution. Such a body of information should be of much assistance both to the Darbars, in the event of the recurrence of famine, and also to any independent examination which the Government of India may be desirous to institute at a later date. These reports should in each case be accompanied by a full and frank expression of opinion as to the possiblity of developing by storage works, wells or otherwise, the agricultural resources of the State.

No. 232.

Letter from Major E. C. Spilsbury, R.E., Secretary to the Agents to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner in the Public Works Department, Rajputana and Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 441-S., dated Mount Abu, the 23rd February, 1901.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.175-I.A., dated 11th January 1901, regarding Irrigation works in Rajputana.

2. In reply I am to say that the matter is receiving the necessary attention in the Public Works Department. In November last Mr. T. Higham, Secretary and Inspector-General of Irrigation, visited Ajmer and conferred with the Superintending Engineer and Secretary in the Public Works Department on the subject. Previous to his visit, all the Political Officers in charge of States had been addressed, and preliminary reports obtained from them on the subject of your letter. A report embodying these reports was drawn up by the Secretary in the Public Works Department, Rajputana, for Mr. Higham's information, and the latter has issued a Note, from which it is understood that further action will be taken by the Government in the Public Works Department. In the meanwhile, additional detailed reports are being called for through Political Officers in respect to certain States which have no regularly organised Public Works Department, so that, in the event of a special officer being deputed, all essential information may be ready at his disposal.

3. I am, therefore, to say that, in the circumstances explained above, it is not proposed to take action on your letter under reply.

A copy of Superintending Engineer's report and of Mr. Higham's Note are herewith submitted. It would be convenient if printed copies could be sent for the use of this office.

Enclosure, in No. 232.

Notes by Major E. C. Spilsbury, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Rajputana and Central India, on a proposed systematic investigation for a programme of Protective Irrigation Works in Rajputana.

1. These notes are the outcome of some demi-official correspondence with Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, on a proposal to systematically investigate as to what can be best done in Rajputana and Central India for protection against famine. A memorandum accompanying the demi-official letter of 13th October, 1900, indicated the nature of the information to be collected, and a circular letter dated the 20th October, 1900, based on this memorandum, was sent to all Political Officers in Rajputana, and more or less full reports have been received from nearly all the States.

2. As the time available was very short, much of the information furnished could only be in general terms. In this connexion it will be useful to refer to a memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Walter, Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, on the condition of Irrigation in the Native States of Rajputana, which accompanied his letter No. 2502-G., dated 19th November, 1881, to the Foreign Department, herewith put up. From this memorandum it will be seen that this subject had nearly always engaged the attention of the rulers of Native States, and that much systematic work had even then been done in this direction.

3. A tabular statement of the Native States of Rajputana is attached, showing population, average rainfall, and the amounts expended on irrigation works from 1893-94 to 1898-99. Of the 19 States, the following seven have a

regularly organised Public Works Department under trained Engineers, lent by Government in most cases :—

(1) Jaipur.	(4) Bharatpur.
(2) Marwar or Jodhpur.	(5) Alwar.
(3) Bikaner.	(6) & (7) Kotah (including Jhalawar).

4. The following four States have or had recently Engineers of their own, but the Public Works Department is apparently not so well organised as in the first group :—

Mewar or Udaipur.

(8) This State has a Government Engineer in charge of the Udaipur-Chitor Railway and a State Engineer of its own.

Dholpur.

(9) Has a State Engineer of its own.

Sirohi.

(10) During the recent famine an Engineer was lent by Government, and he constructed several new tanks. He has lately left the State on close of relief-works.

Kishengarh.

(11) This State seems to be well served by its native staff, and has made good progress. Being partly under Jaipur, it probably gets advice from the Public Works Department of this State.

5. The remaining eight States, *viz* :—

(12) Jaisalmer,	(16) Bundi,
(13) Dungarpur,	(17) Tonk,
(14) Banswara,	(18) Shahpura.
(15) Pertabgarh,	(19) Karauli,

have no Public Works Department organisation of any kind, and in the event of any outside agency being deputed to investigate the matter, these eight States of the third group would certainly be the ones which it would be best to investigate, including probably Mewar of the second group. It will be seen from the reports further on that it will not be necessary, at any rate at first, to conduct any special investigation in any States of the first group, nor in those of the second group, except perhaps in Mewar.

6. It should here be mentioned that what is put down in these notes as to the advisability or necessity of investigating by outside agency is, as a rule, solely the personal opinion of the Political Officers concerned, and that the Darbars, as far as is known, have not been formally approached on the subject. It will, of course, be necessary to obtain their formal approval before taking any decided steps in the matter. The reports received from each State will now be noted on.

Jaipur.

7. (*a*) The Resident has submitted a very full report by the Officiating Superintending Engineer of the State, herewith attached, together with the appendices A to H. This is probably the best organised State in Rajputana as regards its Public Works Department, and the report may be thus briefly summarised.

(*b*) The works carried out in the recent famine comprised roads, railways, and irrigation works, chiefly storage tanks. They are all parts of a previously matured scheme which would have been carried out in the ordinary course, and have all either been completed or will be in due course.

(*c*) There appears to be some 161 tanks of all sizes in the State under professional supervision, mostly efficient, besides many village tanks. There is scope for many more in the southern parts of the State, but not so much in the northern parts where there is much sand, and there is a regular policy of investigating and preparing projects for such works, and of carrying them out.

(*d*) The tanks in existence are stated to have been of the utmost use to mitigating the rigour of the famine, and many of them filled even with the scanty rainfall of 1899. In this State the tanks have shown their use in storing up sudden heavy falls of rain which occurred in 1899, and which would have been quite useless for ordinary crops. It appears that 19,462 acres were irrigated from tanks alone in 1899, not including bed cultivation. And the Resident further points out that, in the famine of 1877, the State only obtained Rs. 22,590 from irrigation from tanks, whereas in 1899 the revenue derived from the same source was Rs. 2,62,982.

(*e*) Jaipur is generally favourably situated as regards rainfall having an average of 24″ in normal years. With the exception of the Banas, all rivers originate in the State itself. Investigation by outside agency is obviously not needed here.

Marwar or Jodhpur.

8. (*a*) The Resident's letter and tabular statement of works carried out in the recent famine are herewith attached. These works consisted of a few roads and railway earthwork, and some nine irrigation tanks. Most of these were finished or nearly so, but the largest one, the Dholera bund, which has a catchment of 400 square miles, and a capacity of 400 million cubic feet, is not yet completed. It is stated to be worth finishing, as it is expected to yield a profit of 12 per cent. on the capital cost, and it is proposed to complete it in the ordinary course.

(*b*) It is stated that there is only one irrigation tank of any importance in existence in the State. There are many small bunds for the temporary retention of the flow of water and subsequent cultivation of the land in the wetted bed.

(*c*) Generally speaking, the circumstances of Marwar are most unsuitable for the storage of water in tanks. The rainfall is scanty and capricious, the soil sandy and generally flat. The Resident, after consulting the Darbar, is of opinion that there is no scope for any further development of storage tanks for irrigation. He adds that the only possibility of further storage would be in the Luni River and its affluents, but as this river has its source in Ajmer-Merwara, the extensive system of tanks in these districts cuts off what might possibly reach Jodhpur. It may be here noted, however, that any rainfall in Ajmer-Merwara in the catchment area of the Luni is hardly likely to reach far into Jodhpur, owing to the long length of the wide and tortuous sandy bed of this river.

(*d*) Hence there would seem to be no need of investigation by outside agency, as this State has an efficient Public Works Department organization. Marwar is practically a desert; the people are accustomed to partial droughts, and regularly emigrate. It is not easy to see what more can be done under the local conditions obtaining, and artesian wells, if such are possible, would appear to be the only chance of ameliorating matters.

Bikaner.

9. (*a*) The letter with accompaniment from the Resident is herewith attached. The works carried out in the famine consisted of roads, railway, earthwork and minor tanks. The latter work appears to have been mainly the deepening of existing tanks. There are, it is stated, no storage tanks in existence in the State, except one which is used for a garden. The so-called tanks are very small affairs, apparently mainly used for watering cattle.

(*b*) The natural conditions are even worse here than in Marwar. Both the Resident and the Darbar are of opinion that there is no scope for further action.

Such tanks as existed dried up and were useless in the famine. The Resident refers to his letter No. 2823–G. of 25th December, 1897 (copy attached), which gives his opinion and is instructive, and it will be seen that his former opinions have been strengthened by recent events.

(*c*) The State has an organised Public Works Department, and its coal mines are a developing industry. It is understood that water is abundant in many parts at a depth of 300 feet or so. On the Punjab border, the Ghaggar canals were constructed two years ago, and these are the only irrigation works in the State.

(*d*) On the whole, it would appear that but little can be done in the matter of the storage of water. The only possible schemes seem to be the utilisation of the underground water, if it is sufficiently widely distributed, or some other scheme similar to the Ghaggar canals might perhaps be found possible. This State is essentially a desert tract, and the people are accustomed to migrate, as the natural condition of things is to be on the verge of a famine.

Bharatpur.

10. (*a*) The report by the Political Agent and the State Council is attached, which enters very fully into the matter. This State has a well-organised system of Public Works. The storage and irrigation works have been systematically developed for some years, and there remains but little more to be done. A good deal of the irrigation in the State is regulated flooding from the Banganga and other rivers which rise elsewhere and flow through the State. The State has by treaty a right to a certain proportion of the water, and by suitable arrangements the water is passed over much low-lying land which is cultivated after the flood has run off.

(*b*) This State is as well off as probably any State in Rajputana in respect of water conservation, &c., and there would appear to be no need of any special attention to it in this respect.

Alwar.

11. (*a*) The letter of the Political Agent and report of the State Engineer are attached. It appears that, though there are many tanks, only three of them are really storage ones, the remainder being, by custom, emptied for bed cultivation. Well cultivation is the most important feature in this State. The configuration of the ground generally prevents the construction of tanks of a large spread. On the whole, there does not appear to be much scope for any important extension of storage tanks, that is, of really remunerative ones. The Political Agent and the Settlement Officer are both of opinion that well extension is of more importance than the construction of new tanks, and that the wells were of more use in alleviating distress than the tanks. The latter, no doubt, indirectly benefited the wells in their vicinity.

(*b*) This State, it appears, is somewhat handicapped by treaty arrangements, which have prevented its using water from the Ruparel river, and by which the State of Bharatpur almost entirely benefits. There does not appear to be any need for investigation by outside agency in this State.

Mewar or Udaipur.

12. (*a*) The Resident's letter and report of the State Engineer are attached. There is no regularly organised Public Works Department in this State. In the last famine attention was mainly given to tank construction and repairs. A programme of famine works is also furnished. It appears that the State is well off for tanks, but they would appear to have been of no use in mitigating distress. They are of native construction and probably a good deal out of repair.

[*N.B.*—The railway earthwork (Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway) carried out in the last famine in this State was entirely supervised and conducted by Government, and the State had nothing to do with it beyond contributing the cost.]

(*b*) The Resident is of opinion that it would be most advantageous to depute an Engineer to examine into and report on the whole matter, as there is great scope for more work of the kind if the Darbar could be induced to agree to the proposal.

(*c*) It would, therefore, seem that in the State all the possibilities in this direction are by no means exhausted, and that investigation by outside agency is most desirable.

Dholpur.

13. The report by the Political Agent and State Engineer, herewith attached, are not very full. It appears that the subject is receiving careful attention, and as this State has a good rainfall as a rule, there does not seem very much need for outside investigation at present. The tanks, it is stated, were of use in mitigating the effects of the famine, but the famine was not very severe here.

Sirohi.

14. (*a*) The report of the Resident and a statement of works carried out in the famine is attached. During the recent famine, an Engineer was lent by Government to the State, and three new tanks were commenced, but not completed. It is proposed to complete the Chandela tank this year. There is only one completed tank in the State, and this was constructed as a contributional work by Government in 1899, and its distributaries are now being made. There are the usual field bunds and wells. The Resident is of opinion, after consulting the Darbar, that no possible scope exists for any further development of storage tanks on a large scale, but that well irrigation may be extended.

(*b*) This is a small State, and I know the Maharao personally, and that he is most anxious to extend irrigation by tanks if there are any promising sites; but except those already found, no others have been discovered. There does not seem to be any need to depute any one specially to this State, as, being close to Abu, the Executive Engineer, Mount Abu Division, can easily, if necessary, examine and report on any proposals, and, in fact, the Pindwara tank was recently carried out by that agency.

Kishengarh.

15. (*a*) The Resident forwards a very full report by the Diwan, which is attached. The State has no regular Public Works Department, but in irrigation matters it appears to be well and intelligently managed, with a definite policy in respect of new tanks and of repairs to old ones, besides the extension of wells. A great number of works were carried out in the recent famine, most of which seem to have been completed. The existing tanks, with which the State is well supplied, are stated to have materially alleviated the severity of the drought, though it does not appear that many of them filled. The recent famine was specially severe in Kishengarh, I believe.

(*b*) This State is partly under Jaipur, and probably gets assistance from the Public Works Department of that State. There does not seem any need to introduce any outside agency for investigation.

Jaisalmer.

16. (*a*) The resident in his letter gives a list of works carried out in the recent famine. But the works were of a very pretty character, and those that were left unfinished are stated to be not worth finishing. In this State the only tanks are small depressions or field bunds, where the soil is retentive enough in which water is collected and the bed subsequently cultivated. The Resident is of opinion that no system of storage or irrigation works will do more than utilise to the best advantage the actual rainfall of the year, and that no

portion of such rainfall can be retained to such an extent as to afford any appreciable benefit during a following year of drought.

(*b*) Jaisalmer is in fact still more of a desert than even Bikaner or Marwar, the rainfall scanty and uncertain, and the soil mostly sand. The Resident, after consulting the Darbar, is of opinion that there is no possible scope for any further development of irrigation works, and this is probably true, unless artesian wells should be practicable.

Dungarpur.

17. (*a*) The famine relief works in this State were few in number and unimportant. It is stated that there are a number of old native tanks, many in a good state of preservation, but they were of no material assistance in the famine. The rainfall of this State is more than the average of Rajputana. The Resident is of opinion that an investigation by an engineer of the possibilities in the way of storage would be of great use, and also to draw up a programme of relief works. But the State would be quite unable to pay for this.

Banswara and Pertabgarh.

18 (*a*) These are both very small States. The Resident's letter is attached. Famine works on a small scale were carried out. A fair number of tanks exist, but were of no use in mitigating the effects of the famine.

(*b*) The Resident is of opinion that there is considerable scope for the improvement and extension of existing tanks, and that the deputation of an Engineer to examine into the question would be most advisable. But presumably neither of these two States could afford to pay for this.

Bundi.

19. The letter of the Political Agent is attached. In the recent famine the relief works consisted of ballast collection and the earthwork of a railway (Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway), kunkar collection for a road, and repairs only of some tanks. There are a very large number of tanks in existence of all sizes, and they were of the utmost use in the famine. What little rain fell in 1899 came in heavy showers, and was largely stored up in the tanks. There are also a number of old, ruined and neglected tanks. He is of opinion that there is ample scope for new tanks and the repairs and improvement of old ones. As the State has no Engineer, it would be most useful to depute one to examine into the matter and prepare projects, and he enumerates some possible sites.

Tonk.

20. During the famine the relief works consisted of metal collection, earthwork of a railway (Tonk-Jehazpur Line), the construction of ten new storage tanks, and the repairs of nineteen old ones. The tanks were all completed. The description and remarks in the case of Bundi apply to this State.

Shahpura.

21. This little Chiefship during the famine carried out as relief works metal collection, earthwork of a railway (Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway), and three new storage tanks, which are complete. The deputation of an Engineer to examine into the water storage question, is considered advisable by the Political Agent.

22. No reports have been yet received from Kotah or Karauli, and they will be added as a supplement, if they should be received in time. The one striking feature in the reports of the States that have tank irrigation is the great difference in the utility of the tanks in mitigating the severity of the famine. The reason why tanks filled so well in some States is stated to have been that

the scanty rains of 1899 fell in a few heavy showers—a condition of things favourable to the filling of tanks. This is probably also the reason why the tanks in other States are reported to have been of no use, either because the rains of 1899 fell in slight showers or were very much less. Again, the large deep tanks, as in Jaipur, would last longer if filled than an equal amount in many small shallow tanks, and it may be said that most of the old native tanks are smaller ones. Hence it may be generally inferred that when the local conditions are suitable for tanks, *viz.*, a retentive soil, a fair amount of rain, a sufficient slope for a quick run off, and a suitable configuration of ground, tanks may be of great assistance, but are not by any means a preventative of famine.

24 Regarding the three desert States of Marwar, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer, it is clear that any extension of tanks in these States, except in some isolated instances will be useless. Unless artesian wells should be found practicable—and it might be worth while to try a series of experimental borings—it will probably have to be accepted that these States are practically deserts, and that the people must continue to migrate yearly as they have always been in the habit of doing. Even artesian wells would merely create a number of cases, and would not change the general condition of the country.

Enclosure 2 in No. 232.

Note by T. Higham, Esq., C.I.E., Inspector General of Irrigation, on Famine Works and Programmes in Rajputana and Central India, dated 30th November, 1900.

RAJPUTANA.

1. I arrived at Ajmer before daybreak on the 14th November, and left on the morning of the 16th. I met Major Spilsbury, the Public Works Secretary to the Agent to the Governor-General, and Mr. Manners-Smith, Executive Engineer, Ajmer Division. On the 14th I visited the Foy Sagar tank, and on the following day I inspected the site of the Oontra tank about 12 miles out of Ajmer, to the west of the Ajmer-Rewari road.

2. The irrigation works in the British Districts of Ajmer and Merwara consist of an immense number of tanks. In Marwara the whole area is covered with them, and in Ajmer, where the lie of the country is less favourable, they are numerous but more scattered. The total area reported as irrigated and protected by them, averaged for the five years ending 1897–98 about 35,000 acres, which may be taken as an index of their normal protective value, the rainfall during this period varying from 16 inches in 1895–96 to 27·64 inches in 1893–94. In 1898–99 the rainfall was only 12·35 inches and the area fell to 25,592 acres. I understand that the area in 1899–1900 was about one-sixth the average or not much more than 6,000 acres, but have not seen the report for this year during which it is evident that the tanks had a very small protective value. The capital outlay on these works is in round numbers Rs. 25,00,000, and the average cost of maintenance about Rs. 47,000 per annum. The net revenue yielded a return of 4·07 on the capital cost in 1893-94, which fell gradually to 2·68 per cent. in 1898–99, and must have been much less than this in 1899–1900. In good years, therefore, the works yield a fair return on their capital cost, and have undoubtedly a considerable protective value, though this is very small in a year of prolonged drought.

3. The capital cost of these works may thus be taken at about Rs. 70 per acre protected in an ordinary year, in which the tanks fill, and at this rate the financial results are fairly favourable. But new works cannot be constructed at anything like this rate per acre. Many of the existing works are old tanks which have merely been repaired or improved at a moderate cost, and all the most favourable sites have been long ago taken up. The Oontra tank, which I visited on the 15th, has been designed to impound 70 millions cubic feet of water, and it is estimated that this will irrigate only 700 acres, though the capital cost will be Rs. 1,26,000, exclusive of establishment charges, or Rs. 180

per acre protected in a good year. In a dry year the tank will probably not protect 100 acres, and its protective value will be practically *nil.* I understand that the cost per acre protected of other new tanks, is not likely to be much more favourable. Even if sites were available for new tanks, it is clear that an active policy in the construction of such works cannot be recommended if their cost will be as great as this in proportion to the area protected. At the same time, if famine labour has at any time to be employed, the construction of such works may be justified, for small as may be their protective value, they will probably be more useful than any others on which the labour could be employed, while the work is of a kind admirably suited for relief purposes. The conclusion is that in Ajmer-Merwara there is no longer any field for the construction of new tanks, either as remunerative projects or even as works that will provide protection against famine in any way commensurate with their great cost, but that if any such works can be proposed, they should be held in reserve as a means of employing famine labour for which they will be more useful or less useless than most other works that can be proposed. They are, in short, of greater importance as a means of providing employment for famine labour than on account of their protective value.

4. During the late famine six small tanks were completed by famine labour in Merwara, and three in Ajmer, and some feeder-channels to existing tanks were also constructed. These tanks all filled when the rains came, and will no doubt be of some protective value. Four tanks remained unfinished—the Makrera, Asan, Bar, and Oontra. On the last of these the concrete foundations for the face wall of a dam 8,000 feet long were laid and completed, the normal value of the work done being about Rs. 48,000, the total estimate being Rs. 1,26,000. The work was stopped shortly before the end of the famine by the orders of the Government of India, in consequence of the representations made by the Salt Commissioner as to the serious effect which might be anticipated from the construction of the tank on the supply to the Sambhar Lake. This is an illustration of the difficulty of constructing tanks in this district without interfering with existing interests. The local officers think that the water to be impounded by this tank would never be likely to reach the Sambhar Lake if not impounded, but the dam is never likely to be completed unless the Salt Commissioner withdraws his objections. Whether the local officer's view be right or wrong, there is not much to be said in favour of completing the tank, as the area to be protected will not exceed 700 acres, and would be much less in a dry year, and at least Rs. 78,000 will be required to complete the dam. If it is ever to be completed it should be merely for the sake of employing relief labourers, and nothing is at present required for the completion of this work. The expenditure already incurred is likely, therefore, to prove wholly infructuous, but it is satisfactory to note that famine labour has been employed successfully on the concrete work in the foundations, as work of this kind constantly occurs in tank work. The concrete which I examined was of very good quality.

5. The Makrera tank also had masonry foundations, which were not, however, quite completed. The Superintending Engineer recommends that these foundations should be completed now that all the materials have been collected and the trench excavated, and estimates the cost at Rs. 10,000 only. The earthen dam will then remain to be constructed at a cost of about Rs. 1,00,000 before the tank can be utilised, but this will prove such an excellent work for the employment of relief labour that it will be better to hold it in reserve for the next famine, merely completing the foundation work.

The Asan tank can be completed at a cost of Rs. 10,000, and this the Superintending Engineer recommends. The work at the Bar tank consists of a large masonry dam, which has been completed to a level of 6 feet only above the river bed. The Superintending Engineer does not recommend completing this work, at any rate for the present, as it will be very costly, and the return that may be expected on the expenditure will be very small. Some work is also required on one of the feeder projects which cost about Rs. 5,000. On the whole, an expenditure of about Rs. 25,000 will suffice for finishing off the irrigation works commenced in Ajmer-Merwara during the late famine to

the extent that is now considered desirable. This amount should be provided in the ordinary way under (43)—Minor Irrigation Works. Other works may be left to be completed on the next occurrence of famine, but it appears certain that there is practically no scope for any new irrigation works in these districts.

6. As to roads, a good deal of metalling was collected, but, unfortunately, consolidation by famine labour was not practicable owing to want of water. The ordinary grant for the current year has been increased to provide for consolidation on the Ajmer-Jaipur road, which has been much cut up by grain traffic, but no further special assistance appears to be required in connection with road expenditure.

7. Relief labour was also employed extensively on the Bara-Ajmer-Marwar railway. I understand that a railway officer, Mr. Harrison, whom I met in Ajmere, has been recently appointed to report on all the railway works in this and other provinces in which relief labour was employed during the late famine, for the purpose of determining which may be most advantageously completed, and the order in which they should be taken in hand. I shall not therefore refer again to railway works in this note.

Native States in the Rajputana Agency.

8. There are nineteen Native States in the Rajputana Agency, and reports on the relief works had been received from the Political Agents or Residents in all these States, except Kotah and Jhallawar. I read all these reports, which are very interesting, and which will no doubt be forwarded in due course to the Government of India As regards Protective Irrigation Works, it may be said that conditions vary greatly. At one end of the scale there are States, such as Jaipur, Bharatpur, and Dholpur, in which there is considerable scope for the construction and extension of such works, with some prospects of an adequate financial return and of excellent results from a famine protective point of view. In these States the importance of irrigation works is fully recognised, considerable sums of money are annually devoted to their construction and maintenance, an organized Public Works establishment exists, and relief labour was largely employed during the late famine on the extension and improvement of works of this class, which proved in many cases of great protective value. Foremost among them stands Jaipur, where, under the able superintendence of Colonel Jacob, continuous progress has been made during the last 25 years, and nearly 47 lakhs have been spent on the construction and maintenance of irrigation works. Many of these works are said to have proved highly remunerative from a directly financial point of view, but it is difficult to compare the results attained with those shown for the works of the same class in Ajmer-Merwara without a close analysis of the figures that have been brought forward in each case. Of their protective value there can be little doubt. There are said to be 161 tanks, complete or incomplete, in this State which irrigated nearly 19,000 acres in 1899, though, according to the Jaipur Public Works Administration Report, the area irrigated during that year was approximately 33,000 acres. The present irrigating capacity of these works would appear to be nearly the same as that of the works in Ajmer-Merwara, although owing to more favourable rainfall the former works were more efficient during the late drought.

9. At the other end of the scale are the three desert States—Bikanir, Jeysulmir, and Marwar or Jodhpur, in which there is practically no scope whatever for storage works. During the late famine one large work, the Dholera tank, was commenced in Jodhpur which the State proposes to complete, and which is estimated to have a storage capacity of 400 millions cubic feet, though I do not know what are the prospects of the tank ever filling, but no other projects are thought possible, and the most that can be done in these States is the construction of small field bunds to hold up whatever rain water may fall. It appears to be hardly worth while to attempt any investigation of storage projects in these States.

10. Intermediate between these extremes are the States of Kotah, Jhallawar, Alwar, Mewar or Udaipur, Sirohi, Kishengarh, Tonk, Bundi, Dongarpur, Banswara, Pertabgarh, Shahpura, and Karauli. As already stated, I have

not seen the reports from Kotah and Jhallawar, but these States have in Mr. R. H. Tickell a competent Public Works Officer, who was for some years in the Punjab Irrigation Branch, and it is doubtful if they require any special assistance for the preparation of a programme of irrigation works. As to Alwar, the State Engineer, a Public Works Officer, thinks that some storage works may be possible in the hilly tracts, though it is very doubtful if they will prove remunerative, and Mr. Dwyer, whose opinion is entitled to great weight, considers that much greater protection may be afforded to Alwar by encouraging the construction of wells than by attempting new storage works. The existing tanks are said to have been of little use in mitigating distress during the late famine, but are probably a good deal out of repair. The Resident recommends further investigation, but this can possibly be undertaken by the State Engineer. It is said that there is little scope for storage works in Mewar, but the Superintending Engineer thinks that possibly something might be done to dam and utilize the perennial streams that flow through that State, and that the question is worth investigating. Three tanks were commenced in Sirohi during late famine, one of which, the Chandala, the State proposes to complete at once. Here, too, it is thought that greater protection can be obtained by encouraging the construction of wells than by making more storage tanks for which it is believed that no new sites are available. It is said that the Executive Engineer, Mount Abu, could very well examine and report on any proposals that this State may wish to bring forward. In Kishengarh many tank works were carried out during the late famine, most of which were completed, and the State is fully alive to the importance of such works. Major Spilsbury says that the State is connected with Jaipur, from which it probably receives some assistance in carrying out irrigation works, and that the deputation of a British officer does not appear to be necessary. As regards the remaining States, it is believed that a great deal can be done in the way of restoring old tanks and constructing new ones, and investigation by a competent officer is recommended, though it is said that the States are in too impoverished a condition to be able to bear the cost of a survey, and are still less able to find funds for the construction of any works that may be proposed. Ten small storage works were, however, undertaken in Tonk during the late famine, and three in Shahpura, all of which were completed, while many old tanks were repaired. The existing tanks in Bundi are said to have been of great service, as the rainfall was favourable.

11. It thus seems desirable to undertake an investigation of tank projects which will form a useful programme of relief works in the States of Tonk, Bundi, Dongarpur, Banswari, Pertabgarh. Shahpura and Karauli, and possibly also in Mewar, but the cost would apparently have to be borne by the British Government and the works would only be executed under pressure of famine, and as a means of affording employment to distressed labour. What is required is a programme of works that may be put in hand in case of necessity, similar to that which has been recently prepared by Captain Ewbank, R.E., for Bundelkhand.

It will, I am afraid, be impossible to depute a competent officer for this work during the present cold weather, for it is as much as we can do to find an officer for the more urgent work of a similar kind in the Central Provinces, and even if an officer were available, the best part of the cold weather would be gone before he could be set to work. On other grounds it would, I think, be better to defer the investigation until the cold weather of 1901-1902, and after further consultation with the Darbars of the States concerned, and the preparation of a definite programme of the sites to be examined and the order of investigation. I think it even a question whether the deputation of a Public Works Officer will be necessary. The works to be carried out will be generally of a simple character, for which is required not so much high engineering skill as actual experience in the design and management of works of this class. The subject is one which has received great attention in Jaipur State, where Colonel Jacob has under him a European engineer officer and a trained staff of surveyors, who are systematically employed on work of this kind. I would suggest, therefore, that before taking further action in the case of these small States, Colonel Jacob, who has made a special study of this subject, and

who is, I understand, on the way out from England, should be asked to give the benefit of his advice and assistance in the matter. If Government are prepared to bear the cost of an investigation, Colonel Jacob will be able to give very valuable hints or instructions for the guidance of the officer who may be deputed, and it is even possible that he may be able to provide and equip a competent staff from among his own trained subordinates to whom the work might with confidence be entrusted, all important estimates being subject before sanction to the professional scrutiny of the Public Works Secretary to the Agent to the Governor-General. I think it probable that well trained local experts of this kind would be the most satisfactory agency that could be employed in the investigation of irrigation projects in neighbouring States, and that if the proposal is feasible it will have many advantages.

Central India.

12. Major Spilsbury accompanied me to Indore, which I visited on the 17th November, and where I met Mr. Bayley, Agent to the Governor-General, and Colonel Jennings, the Resident of Indore. Reports on recent famine operations, and on the possibility of constructing a programme of protective irrigation works had been received from all the Residents or Political Superintendents of Indore, Dewas, Gwalior, Bhopawar, Malwa, Bhopal, Bundelkhand and Bhagalkhand. As to Holkar, Colonel Jennings states that there is a great field for the improvement and restoration of existing tanks in this State which will greatly increase their protective value, and that this work is to be vigorously undertaken as ordinary Public Works expenditure. It is not considered advisable to defer the execution of such works for the sake of maintaining a programme of works reserved for famine labour, partly because famine does not often occur in this State, and partly because there are five large road projects which will be held in reserve as desirable famine relief works, and which will probably be found sufficient for the purpose. It is considered of greater importance to put these storage works into order as soon as possible, reliance being placed on the roads as a means of employing relief labour, if famine should occur after the irrigation works have been completed. It is not thought that many new storage projects can be proposed, but the repair or restoration of existing tanks will require all the money that can be assigned to this object for some years to come. Colonel Jennings does not think it necessary at present to apply to Government for professional assistance.

13. As regards the other Agencies, it appears to be considered that there is not much scope for storage works, but that something might be done in the way of damming and utilizing perennial streams in Malwa, Bhopal and Bhopawar, and perhaps also in Dewas. It is said, however that there are possible sites for storage works in Dhar, Ali Rajpur and Barwani States within the Bhopawar Agency, and that the Himatgarh Tank in Dhar should, if repaired, prove a very remunerative work. The importance of encouraging the construction of wells in this Agency is also insisted on. As already stated, Captain Ewbank has preparad a fairly extensive programme of storage works that may be undertaken in the Bundelkhand Agency in the event of famine, but which should be held in reserve for such a contingency. Fortunately Bundelkhand did not suffer much in the late famine, so that relief works were unnecessary. In Bhagalkhand there appears to be little scope for any larger works than field bunds.

14. The general impression conveyed by the reports is that there is not a very wide field for new storage works in the Central India, though something may be done in repairing old tanks, and possibly in utilizing some of the perennial streams. The larger States, such as Holkar or Gwalior, do not require Government assistance. In many of the smaller States investigation of irrigation projects is recommended by the Political Agents, but it is said that the States themselves will not be able to bear the cost. The case for investigation appears to be less urgent, and possibly also less promising than that in the Rajputana States.

I think that an investigation at the cost of Government should be contemplated, especially in the Bhopawar Agency, and that, if possible, it should be commenced in the cold weather of 1901-1902, but if establishment is not then available, the work should be taken up after that proposed in Rajputana has been completed, and possibly by the same agency. It must be remembered that these surveys are in both cases required mainly for the purpose of providing a programme of relief works, in case of emergency, and that, except in the event of famine, the immediate execution of any project, however promising, cannot be contemplated, as the States concerned are not likely to be able to provide the funds for some years to come. It is of course very desirable that programmes of useful relief works should be prepared as soon as possible, as we cannot tell when famine may be again upon us ; but it is much to be regretted that the Public Works establishment is so short in all provinces as to render it impossible to depute at once officers to Native States and other places for which extra assistance is required. The late famine has put a great strain on the *personnel* of the Department, which has been a long time undermanned. There have been many casualties and breakdowns, and leave cannot be indefinitely suspended. If officers cannot be deputed at once to these Native States, the matter should not, however, be lost sight of, and arrangements should be made as soon as possible after the present stress is relieved. In the meanwhile something can possibly be done in the States in which investigation is most needed in the way of preparing lists of possible projects for examination by an expert as soon as available.

15. In all the Central India States relief labour has been extensively employed on road work. The Political Agent for Bhopawar has made an urgent appeal for an Imperial grant or contribution towards the completion of the Jhabua-Meghnagar, and the Umarkot-Raipura roads in the Jhabua and Jobat States ; the earthwork only on which was completed during the famine. It is urged that in spite of the expenditure incurred by the State on these roads, they will be of little or no value unless the work are completed, that the roads themselves will have a great protective value in time of famine in facilitating the distribution of grain, and that they will also be useful feeders to the railway, and lastly that distress is likely to continue for some time in these two States. I refer to the matter here as these are the only two relief works in Central India, the immediate completion of which has been urgently recommended, but I do not know whether the case is one which would justify an imperial contribution, nor was I able to ascertain what the probable cost of completion would amount to.

V.

RELIEF MEASURES IN PATIALA STATE.

No. 233.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 2142 *I.-A., dated the* 15*th May*, 1900.

Government of India are very much shocked by state of affairs revealed in your letter of 2nd May* to Motamid of Patiala State, concerning neglect of famine relief in Narnaul and Kanaudh, and will be glad to know if offer made by Lieutenant-Governor in concluding paragraph has been accepted.

No. 234.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 780, *dated Simla, the* 29*th May*, 1900.

With reference to correspondence ending with your telegram No. 2142 I.-A., dated the 15th May, 1900, regarding the neglect of famine relief measures in the Narnaul and Kanaudh Parganas of the Patiala State, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of my letter No. 773, dated the 26th May, 1900, to the Motamid of the Patiala State (and enclosure), from which it will be seen that His Highness the Maharaja has not accepted the Lieutenant-Governor's offer of the services of a British officer, but has deputed Mr. Rose, State Engineer, to be in charge of the relief works. The result of this action on the part of the Patiala Darbar will be anxiously watched by the Lieutenant-Governor.

2. I am to explain that Mr. Rose was appointed as Assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department of the Patiala State under the sanction given in Foreign Department letter No. 1476, dated 3rd May, 1890.

Enclosure in No. 234.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, to the Motamid of the Patiala State in attendance on His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, No. 773, *dated Simla, the* 26*th May*, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter No. 84, dated 9th May, 1900, replying to my letter No. 673, dated 2nd May, 1900, bringing to the notice of His Highness the Maharaja the serious state of famine in the Narnaul and Kanaudh Parganas, and offering the services of a British officer to act under the orders of the Commissioner of the Delhi Division, and advise the local State

* See page 558 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.

officials as to the steps which are necessary at the present crisis. I am to add that the Government of India, to whom my letter was forwarded for information, has expressed itself as very much shocked by the state of affairs revealed in my letter, and has enquired whether the offer made by the Lieutenant-Governor has been accepted.

2. In the telegram from the Foreign Minister, which forms the enclosure to your letter above quoted, it is stated—

(*a*) that besides the poor-house already ordered in Narnaul, another has been ordered at Kanaudh, and also that a road from Charkhi-Dadhri Railway Station to Narnaul *viâ* Kanaudh has also been ordered ;

(*b*) that Mr. Rose, State Engineer, has been appointed to be in charge of all these relief works with Pandit Sundur Lall and other officers under him, and that Mr. Rose is to report through Central Officers (presumably to His Highness the Maharaja) as to the opening of other relief works ;

(*c*) that Mr. Rose has been directed to see on his way the Commissioner of Delhi and take his advice ;

(*d*) that one lakh of rupees is to be sent at once to Narnaul for starting the above works.

3. In other words His Highness the Maharaja has not accepted the offer of the Lieutenant-Governor, but has deputed another official of the State to rectify the existing mismanagement, directing him to see on his way the Commissioner of Delhi and take his advice. By taking this course the Maharaja of Patiala in no way relieves himself of the responsibility for famine management in the parganas above-mentioned, and the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it necessary to emphasize this fact by reason of the signal failure of the State officials brought to notice in my letter of 2nd May. His Honour is not at all sure that the Maharaja is well advised in adopting this course. Mr. Rose will not have the advantage of the continued advice and direction of the Commissioner of Delhi, and the burden of setting matters right must rest upon him, subject to the Maharaja's direction. At the same time Sir Mackworth Young will await the result of Mr. Rose's deputation before taking any further action.

4. Although it was not the intention of the Lieutenant-Governor to offer that the Commissioner of Delhi should tender advice to the subordinate officers of the State, the Lieutenant-Governor has heard from Mr. Fanshawe that he has seen Mr. Rose and furnished him with some advice in the form of a note, of which a copy is herewith forwarded. The instructions therein contained appear to the Lieutenant-Governor to be well calculated to start matters on a better footing.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor does not withdraw his offer of assistance to the Patiala State in the difficulty it is now experiencing, and will continue to watch anxiously the position. He thinks it necessary to say that the circumstances are such as to call for His Highness's personal attention, and to ask that the Darbar should keep this Government fully informed of the progress of the famine by means of the statement contemplated in the Famine Rules for Native States, which should be duly prepared and submitted each month.

Annexure.

Memorandum of Commissioner, Delhi, dated the 13th May, 1900.

(1.) The work on the Rewari-Phalera Railway can take as many Patiala subjects as wish to come upon it (some 3,000 are on it already), and this should be made widely known throughout Narnaul. No other relief work is, I imagine, needed in that tract.

(2.) A large poor-house should be opened at once at Narnaul and another (probably a smaller one will do) at Kanaudh, and all miserable wandering people and those now

fed on the railway relief work should be swept into these at once and be fed there, special diet of milk, dallia, and khichri being given to all sadly reduced people, and a wheaten diet to all.

(3.) Gratuitous relief should be started at once throughout both tracts by the agencies of the Patwaris and Lambardars, who should be supplied with small sums for the relief of the worst cases until the lists can be checked by higher officials, which should, as far as possible, be done as they are completed for each village person.

(4.) I understand a relief work will be started on the road from Charkhi-Dadhri to Kanaudh. I think there should be one work at Kanaudh and one 8–10 miles north of this place ; notice should be given to the people of the tract as in the case of Narnaul that work will be provided for all who wish to come on it.

(5.) It is too late to start hutting people who wish to reside on the Darbar relief works, and arrangements had better be made to place them in villages along the road.

(6.) Special arrangements should be made for lime to disinfect the wells in all such villages, and for the supply of water to the people on the works.

(7.) The drawings of Executive Engineer, Delhi, on the Narnaul Treasury will be about Rs. 15,000 per mensem, and the relief expenditure by the Darbar will come to rather more I should guess, say—

——	Rs.
4,000 workers on relief works at Rs. 3 per mensem	12,000
800 persons in poor-houses at Rs. 2 per mensem	1,600
2,000 persons on gratuitous relief at Rs. 2 per mensem ...	4,000
Total	17,600

so that Rs. 35,000–40,000 per mensem, or Rs. 1,20,000 in the next three months, should be made available at the sub-treasury. *This is absolutely imperative* if real relief has to be properly administered.

(8.) The above numbers are very rough guesses of course. I do not know what the population of Narnaul and Kanaudh is, and many of the people must of course have left these tracts long ago.

(9.) These are general lines for relief only ; probably Mr. Rose will be able to submit a detailed programme in a week's time or so, and probably may wish to suggest various modifications of them.

No. 235.

Letter from A. H. Diack, Esq., Revenue and Financial Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 870, *dated Simla, the* 13*th June*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 780, dated the 29th May, 1900, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a further letter No. 868 of the 13th June, 1900, addressed to the Motamid of the Patiala State as to the provision of funds for the administration of famine relief in Narnaul.

No. 236.

Letter from the Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, to the Motamid of the Patiala State in attendance on His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, No. 868, *dated Simla, the* 13*th June*, 1900.

In my letter No. 773, dated 26th May, 1900, it was stated that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor would await the result of Mr. Rose's

deputation to Narnaul and Kanaudh before taking any further action in connection with the famine in Patiala, but circumstances which have now been brought to his knowledge have compelled him to direct me to again address you on the subject.

2. In a letter, dated 2nd May, 1900, the Commissioner of Delhi asked His Honour to move the Darbar to provide at Narnaul Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 15,000 monthly to be paid against cheques drawn by the Punjab Public Works Department, so as to save them the risk and inconvenience of conveying specie to Narnaul for payment to the famine workers employed on the Rewari-Phalera Railway. The amount would have been repaid by the Punjab Government to the State on presentation of the cheques at a British treasury. The Commissioner further asked that half of this money should be in British copper coinage and in small silver in the proportion of two of copper and one of small silver. This letter was not forwarded to you, because it related for the most part to matters in regard to which you had been addressed in detail in my letter No. 673, dated 2nd May, 1900, and in connection with which the services of a British officer had been offered to His Highness the Maharaja. The subject of providing coin against cheques drawn by the Punjab Public Works Department was, however, referred to in my letter No. 698, dated 8th May, 1900, and again in paragraph (7) of the Memorandum of advice which was at the request of the Darbar given by the Commissioner of Delhi to Mr. Rose on May 13th, 1900, and of which a copy was sent by the Commissioner to the Kunwar Sahib of Patiala.

3. Sir Mackworth Young has now learned with great regret through a telegram addressed on the 8th instant by the Sub-Divisional Officer in charge of the railway relief work at Narnaul to the Commissioner of the Delhi Division that the State treasury is unable to meet his demand. The Lieutenant-Governor's regret is due not so much to the inability of the State to meet the wishes of the Public Works Department, for the provision of coin at Narnaul would have been a mere matter of convenience and a saving of the slight risk with which the carriage of large sums of money by road is attended. But he fears that, if the treasury at Narnaul does not contain sufficient coin to meet the demands of the British officers employed there on the railway relief work, it is obviously incapable of satisfying the requirements in the way of other relief works, gratuitous relief and the like, to which the attention of the Darbar has been drawn and which the Darbar has promised to supply. It is true that you have verbally reported that a sum of Rs. 43,500 has reached Narnaul in several remittances for the purpose of famine relief, but there would appear to be urgent need of the full sum of one lakh of rupees being immediately made available at Narnaul, which the Foreign Minister's telegram of 8th May received with your letter of 9th May promised should be sent there at once. And I am to ask that, if His Highness the Maharaja still adheres to his intention of fighting the famine by means of his own officials and without the assistance of the British officer whose services His Honour has offered to lend to him, some substantial proof may be furnished of the lakh of rupees having been received in Narnaul and devoted to the purpose of famine relief.

VI.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

HYDERABAD.

No. 237.

Letter from the Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 237, *dated Hyderabad, the 6th June*, 1900.

As requested in your telegram No. 1835 I.-A., dated the 28th May, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Hyderabad State for the month of April, 1900, prepared in the form which accompanied Foreign Department circular letter No. 1881 I., dated the 7th May, 1892.

Enclosure in No. 237.

GENERAL REMARKS ACCOMPANYING FAMINE STATEMENT.

Private relief.—There is no organised system of private relief, but subscriptions have been raised in the four districts of the Aurangabad Division to the extent of Rs. 47,331.

Village relief.—Not attempted, but Patels have instructions to send deserving persons to the nearest poor-house.

Poor-houses.—Poor-houses are established at the head-quarters of districts and talukas, and in some large villages.

General character of relief works.—The people are kept as much as possible on large works, which are chiefly roads and railway banks.

Physical condition of the people.—The majority of the people show no signs of famine emaciation. The percentage of emaciation in the relief camps is perhaps 10 per cent.

Deaths from starvation.—A few deaths from starvation were reported in the Bir district before the works were organised. During the month under report no such deaths have been reported. Vital statistics in villages are, however, unreliable.

Food stocks.—Ample, but at famine prices. The rates, however, are cheaper than those that prevailed in the scarcity of 1896–97.

* Not printed.

Importation of grain.—The total imports of grain since October, 1899, are 24,58,000 maunds and exports 13,59,000, leaving a balance in favour of imports of 10,99,000 maunds.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—If the monsoon is favourable, a large number of persons may be expected to leave the relief works at once to prepare the land for crops, but there will be a difficulty about cattle, the full extent of which cannot, however, be judged until it is seen how many cattle return from the forest tracts where they were sent for grazing.

Changes in relief wages.—Following the action of the Bombay Government, the minimum wage has been reduced to 9½ chittacks. (In the month of May, this was raised again to 12 chittacks on the Jaluna-Khamgaon Railway adjoining Buldana district of Berar.)

Emigration and immigration.—Several complaints of the immigration of His Highness's subjects into British territory have been received. In all cases, the persons were brought back, but the numbers reported to have emigrated generally turned out to be exaggerated. Some British subjects have also come on works in His Highness's territory.

No. 238.

Letter from the Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 250, *dated Hyderabad, the* 13*th June*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 237, dated the 6th June, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Hyderabad State for the month of May, 1900. The affected area remains unchanged.

Enclosure in No. 238.

GENERAL REMARKS ACCOMPANYING FAMINE STATEMENT.

There is no improvement in the situation as reported in the statement for month ending April, but rather the distress is intensifying and numbers on relief are increasing.

No. 239.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 324, *dated Hyderabad, the* 1*st August*, 1900.

With reference to Foreign Department telegram No. 3247 I.-A., dated the 25th July, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a complete Famine Statement* of the Hyderabad State for the month of June, 1900, to be kindly substituted for the statement forwarded with my letter No. 291, dated the 14th July, 1900.

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* Not printed.

2. The "General Remarks" which, through an oversight, were not copied in the first instance, furnish the information required by your telegram cited above.

Enclosure in No. 239.

General Remarks by A. J. Dunlop, Esq., Famine Commissioner to His Highness the Nizam's Government, dated Aurangabad, the 7th July, 1900.

Private relief.—The total subscriptions up to date, amount to about Hali Sicca Rs. 50,000 collected in four famine districts, most of which have been expended on the poor-houses for which the money was specifically subscribed.

In the end of June a donation of Government Rs. 50,000 was received through the Resident from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and measures are now in progress for spending it.

Village relief.—There is no regular organised system of village relief, because there is no agency through which it can be carried out. Patels of villages are instructed to provide at Government expense for distressed persons, and, if possible, to send them to the nearest poor-house or relief work. The Police also have been specially enjoined to assist in this matter, and an advance of Rs. 1,000 has been given to each District Superintendent of Police for this purpose, and clear instructions issued that starving people are to be handed over to the nearest patel with a written order (and money) authorising grant of a dole of 12 chittacks grain until further orders.

If these instructions were fully carried out, all deserving cases would be brought to light. The Police returns have not yet been received, but I have little confidence in the orders being properly given effect to.

Poor-houses.—Poor-houses are established at the head-quarters of districts and talukas and in some large villages. Two poor-houses have lately been opened in the Telingana districts, and sanction given for two others. In all there are 57 poor-houses with an attendance of 99,267.

General character of relief works.—The people are kept on large works which are chiefly roads and railway works. There are no small village works, nor can these be attempted for want of supervision. But persons wishing to return to their villages for cultivation are being given help for the journey and a few days besides. A scheme is now under consideration for continuing village relief to persons of this class until they are able to support themselves.

Physical condition of the people.—The people who joined the works in June are considerably emaciated, showing that they put off resort to relief works as long as possible. The majority of workers are of normal strength. The marked feature is their laziness. Very few workers care to earn more than a minimum wage, and large numbers knowing that they get in any case the minimum will not even work up to that rate. Many ryots are reported as having returned to their villages for sowing operations, but their places have been taken by others. In some cases ryots have returned to the camps after sowing their fields.

Deaths from starvation.—No deaths from starvation reported, but the returns on this head from villages are quite unreliable. Fifty-two camp hospitals are in working order.

Public health.—There has been cholera in every district, but not to a great extent. The cholera cases in relief camps and poor-houses have been 1,444 attacks and 658 deaths. The diseases generally prevalent in relief camps are fever, dysentery, diarrhœa. The total cases reported are 9,590 attacks and 1,909 deaths, making with cholera a total of attacks 11,034 and deaths 2,567.

Food-stock.—The supply of grain is sufficient, but prices show no sign of falling ; in fact are rather firmer. The quotations are :—

Districts.	Quotations.
Aurangabad	6½ seers per Hali Sicca rupees.
Bir	6 „ „
Nander...	6⅓ „ „
Parbhani	6⅛ „ „
Gulburgah	7⅓ „ „
Naldurg	6⅓ „ „

In parts of the Parbhani district away from the railway and affected by impassable roads, the price has risen to as much as 4½ seers of jowari per rupee.

Importing grain.—The imports and exports of grain for May and up to 6th June were as follows :—

—	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Imports.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
May	444,255	67,509	376,746
Up to 6th June	84,936	18,795	66,141

From the beginning of the famine up to 6th June the imports of grain have been 3,112,710 maunds, the exports 1,466,910, and the excess of imports over exports 1,645,800 maunds, or about 61,000 tons.

General condition and prospects.—Although the monsoon was so late in setting in, and is still hanging off, good and fair rain has fallen in all parts of the famine area, and so far we are safe. The crops that have been sown have come up satisfactorily, and if the latter part of the monsoon season is favourable, all will be well. Everything depends on the rainfall in the latter part of the monsoon season.

It was anticipated that shortly after the rains set in, the numbers on relief would materially decrease, but this has not been the case. The number newly joined far exceeds the number that has left, and the total number on relief in the end of June was 516,601 as compared with 461,080 in the month of May, being an increase of 12·1 per cent.

The tendency is still for numbers to rise, and the situation is most critical. A prolonged break in the rains would, I believe, cause a large inrush on our works, while from the hitherto slightly affected districts of Elgandal and Indur, the reports are discouraging, and, if matters do not improve, the famine area may be largely increased. Poor-houses have had to be sanctioned for the head-quarters of Elgandal, Warangal and Indur districts, and, if the situation does not improve, relief works will have to be started in these districts.

Change in wages.—No changes have been made in the rate of wages.

Emigration and Immigration.—4,500 persons have been brought from the Basim district in Berar and employed on works near Hingoli or maintained in the poor-houses. From Sholapur also notice has come of some of His Highness's subjects being on British works, but, as pointed out before, the boundary is so irregular and villages so intermixed that it is impossible to avoid this. The

Collector of Sholapur in a recent letter recognises that the stream of emigration has been stopped, although people still continue to "dribble" into British territory.

In the Parendah poor-house there are 29 British subjects.

Taccavi advances.—Ten lakhs have been sanctioned for advances for purchase of bullocks and seed, and the Tahsildars are engaged in distributing the money.

No. 240.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 351, *dated Hyderabad, the* 18*th August*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 324, dated the 1st August, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Hyderabad State for the month of July, 1900, received from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, together with a copy of a general remarks of the Famine Commissioner thereon.

Enclosure in No. 240.

General Remarks by A. J. Dunlop, Esq., Famine Commissioner, dated Camp Aurangabad, the 7th August, 1900.

The total subscriptions up to date amount to about Government Rs. 40,000 collected in four famine districts, most of which have been expended on the poor-houses for which money was specially subscribed.

Private relief.—In the end of July another donation of Government Rs. 80,000 was received through the Resident from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, making in all Rs. 1,30,000 from this source. The money is being spent in clothing the poor in the famine districts.

Village relief.—There is no wide system of village relief. Patels and the Police are authorised to take charge of the distressed persons and pass them on to the nearest poor-house. In addition to this, persons in camp and poor-houses who wish to return to their homes are given food for the journey and also doles for 15 days after arrival through the Patel of the village. If longer relief is necessary, Patels are authorised to give it.

Poor-houses.—Poor-houses at the head-quarters of districts and talukas and in some large villages aggregate to 57 in number, having a total attendance of 106,565, which is 7,298 more than the figure of last month.

General character of relief work.—The people are as usual kept on large works which are chiefly roads and railway works, and persons wishing to return to their villages are being given help for the journey and 15 days' maintenance after arrival in their villages.

Physical condition of the people.—The physical condition of the people is much the same as last reported, but the people have apparently more heart in them since the rains have been favourable. A considerable number have returned to their homes, and in the course of a few weeks, if all goes well, I expect to see a large decrease in numbers.

Deaths from starvation.—No deaths from starvation reported, but the returns on this head from villages are quite unreliable.

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* Not printed.

Some deaths have occurred at Nander poor-house from exposure to the weather when the sheds were blown down by high wind.

Public health.—Six camp hospitals were opened this month, and in all 58 camp hospitals are in working order. There has been cholera in all famine districts, but much less than in the preceding months, the deaths from this disease being 360 as against 658 in June. The other diseases prevalent in relief camps are ague, diarrhœa, dysentery, bronchitis, dyspepsia, ulcers, constipation, conjunctivitis and guinea worm. The total cases reported are 10,461 attacks and 2,330 deaths, making with cholera a total of attacks 11,285 and deaths 2,690.

Food-stock.—The supply of grain is sufficient, but prices show no sign of falling. In fact are rather firmer.

Importing grain.—Return of imports and exports of grain for the month have not yet been received. Imports, however, continue.

General condition and prospects.—The rainfall is favourable in every district, and good autumn crops may be expected. Until prices fall, however, there cannot be much improvement in the state of the labouring classes.

Changes in wages.—No changes have been made in wages.

Emigration and Immigration.—The returns have not been received. A few people from either side cross the border, but the numbers are not great now.

Taccavi advances.—The ten lakhs which was sanctioned by Government for the purchase of bullocks and seeds are being distributed by the Tahsildars, and 5 lakhs more have been asked for.

No. 241.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 398, dated Hyderabad Residency, the 24th September, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 351, dated the 18th August, 1900, I have the honour to submit for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Hyderabad State for the month of August, 1900, received from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, together with a copy of the general remarks of the Famine Commissioner thereon.

Enclosure in No. 241.

General Remarks by A. J. Dunlop, Esq., Famine Commissioner, dated 9th September, 1900.

Private relief.—The total subscription up to date amounts to about Government Rs. 40,000, collected in four famine districts, most of which has been expended in the poor-houses for which money was specially subscribed.

Another donation of one lakh of rupees has been received through the Resident from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, making in all Rs. 2,30,000 from this source.

The money is being spent in supplying clothes and in cash grants to deserving persons. It has also been resolved to supply bullocks to distressed cultivators, but there is a difficulty in purchasing them in sufficient quantities.

The experiment is going to be tried of supplying bullocks to the village community to be used in rotation by the poorest of the cultivators.

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* Not printed.

Village relief.—Persons returning to their villages are given orders or chalans on the village Patel for 15 days' maintenance. The numbers who have availed themselves of this measure, according to returns received up to date, is 11,828, but many returns have still to be received. The number in relief camps has now fallen from Rs. 4,18,927 to Rs. 2,23,261, being a decrease of 46·7 per cent.

Poor-houses.—The same rule for giving 15 days' village relief applies to poor-houses, and people are returning from there to their villages. The number now in the poor-houses is Rs. 81,969, as compared with 98,237, which was the highest figure reached.

General character of relief.—The people are as usual kept on large works which are chiefly roads and railway works, but the number is decreasing. Several works have already been closed, and if all goes well in September it is expected that all able-bodied persons will have left the works by the end of the current month. A recent order has been introduced by which the gangs have been re-arranged, all persons below normal strength being grouped into separate gangs. In the case of the gangs composed entirely of strong able-bodied persons, the minimum wage has been abolished and payments are being paid according to work, subject only to a maximum wage. This measure is helping to reduce numbers. It is very desirable that the large camps should be broken up as early as possible, because many ryots are reported to be complaining that they cannot get labour for weeding their fields.

Physical condition of the people.—The physical condition of the people is undoubtedly improving, but there are still a considerable number of emaciated persons, while, on the other hand, in some camps, the people are all in good condition.

Deaths from starvation.—No deaths are reported from starvation.

Public health.—During the month of August, 1900, there have been 270 attacks and 226 deaths from cholera in relief camps and poor-houses. The total attacks and deaths from this epidemic up to the end of August are 8,529 attacks and 3,997 deaths in relief camps and poor-houses. The diseases generally prevalent in camps are ague, boils, dysentery, diarrhœa, dyspepsia, bronchitis, ulcers, abscesses, guineaworm, and conjunctivitis. The total attacks and deaths from common diseases up to date are 41,641 attacks and 8,032 deaths.

Food stock.—The supply of grain is sufficient, but prices are still very dear. In many parts Jawari is selling at five seers per rupee, and the cheapest rate in the famine districts is eight seers per Hali Sicca rupee, or about 10 seers per British rupee.

Importing grain.—The imports and exports of grain for the month ending 7th July, 1900, have been as follows :—

	Maunds.
Imports	4,93,581
Exports	85,836
Excess of imports over exports	4,07,745

General condition and prospects.—The rainfall up to date is favourable, and a good khareef crop is expected. The rabi crop depends on a great measure on the rain that may fall later in the season.

Changes in wages.—No changes have been made in the rates of wages beyond the stoppage of minimum wages in the case of able-bodied gangs. All such gangs are now paid by results, subject only to a maximum.

Emigration and immigration.—No returns have been received.

Taccavi advances.—An additional five lakhs have been sanctioned during the month, making in all 15 lakhs which have been allotted to the famine districts for the purchase of bullocks and seed.

No. 242.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 452, dated Hyderabad, the 20th October, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 398, dated the 24th September, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Hyderabad State for the month of September, 1900, received from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, together with a copy of the general remarks of the Famine Commissioner thereon.

Enclosure in No. 242.

General remarks by A. J. Dunlop, Esq., Famine Commissioner, dated Hyderabad, the 10th October, 1900.

Private relief.—The total subscriptions up to date amount to about Government Rs. 40,000 collected in four famine districts, most of which has been expended on the poor-houses for which money was specially subscribed.

Another donation of one lakh of rupees has been received from the Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund, making in all Rs. 3,30,000. The money is being spent in supplying bullocks and clothes to the ryots, and in giving cash grants to deserving persons returning to their homes.

Village relief.—Persons returning to their villages are given orders or *chalans* on the village Patels for 15 days' maintenance. The total number of persons relieved in this way is 56,746. These persons are not included in the figures showing the number in receipt of relief, because it is not known whether they have returned to their villages.

Poor-houses.—There are 75 poor-houses open, in which the number relieved is 40,553 as against 81,969 last month.

General character of relief.—*Vide* last month's report.

Physical condition of the people.—The physical condition of the people has improved, and large numbers have left famine relief works for their homes.

Public health.—There were no cholera cases or deaths in any of the relief camps, and only 32 attacks, all of which proved fatal, in the Udgir poor-house in the Bider district. The total mortality from this epidemic in the famine camps and poor-houses to the end of September was 4,029 out of a total of 8,561 attacks.

Four hundred and forty-six persons, out of a total reported sick of 4,720, died in camps and poor-houses during the last month, bringing up the statistics to 46,361 cases and 8,478 deaths.

Food stocks.—The supply of grain is sufficient and prices have slightly fallen, except in the frontier and the inaccessible talukas of the famine area, the rate quoted in three talukas being still 5 seers per Sicca rupee. The cheapest rate in the famine area continues to be 8 seers per Halli Sicca rupee, or about 10 seers per British rupee.

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* Not printed.

The imports and exports of grain for the month ending 7th August, 1900, have been :—

—	Maunds.
Imports	593,911
Exports	118,335
Excess of imports over exports	475,576

General condition and prospects.—The rainfall up to date has been favourable and a good kharif crop has been assured. For the rabi crop in the famine area more rain is necessary, and on the later rainfall depends the future of this crop. If seasonable rain falls, the crop may be a full one. On the other hand, if rain does not fall, the rabi crop in the famine area will generally be a failure. In the hope of a favourable season, large numbers of persons have gone to their homes and the famine camps are being closed. During the month under report, there has been a total decrease of 202,047, the numbers now on relief being :—

—	Number.	Number.
Workers	40,659	
Dependents	21,971	
		62,630
Gratuitously relieved in poor-houses		40,553
Total		103,183

Changes in wages.—No changes. See last report.

Emigration and immigration.—See last report.

Taccavi advances.—See last report.

No. 243.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 511, *dated Hyderabad, the* 23*rd November*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 452, dated the 20th October, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Hyderabad State for the month of October, 1900, received from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, with the general remarks of the Famine Commissioner thereon.

* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 243.

Remarks by A. J. Dunlop, Esq., Famine Commissioner to His Highness the Nizam's Government dated Hyderabad, the 7th November, 1900.

The famine relief operations are now almost closed. There are only three camps in the Naldurg district with an attendance of 6,900, and 54 poor-houses with an attendance of 8,389.

Unless rain falls, there will be more distress in the districts on the north-western frontier, and further relief measures may become necessary. If rain falls now, all will be well.

No. 244.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 550, *dated Hyderabad, the* 15*th December*, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 511, dated the 23rd November, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement* of the Hyderabad State for the month of November, 1900, received from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, with the general remarks of the Famine Commissioner thereon.

Enclosure in No. 244.

General remarks by A. J. Dunlop, Esq., Famine Commissioner.

The only camp in existence is in the Parinda Taluka of the Naldrug district where the attendance is 2,482. This camp is also to be closed under orders received through the Financial Secretary.

In parts of the western districts, the late crops have failed and orders have been issued to talukdars of districts to start well-sinking.

No. 245.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 54 *of* 1901, *dated Hyderabad Residency, the* 24*th January*, 1901.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of this office letter No. 3024, dated the 14th December, 1900, to His Highness the Nizam's Minister, and of his reply thereto, No. 88, dated the 17th January 1901, regarding famine relief measures proposed to be taken by His Highness' Government to meet the threatened scarcity in certain districts of the Hyderabad State during the year 1901.

2, I thought it advisable as soon as I became aware of the probability of distress in certain districts of the Hyderabad State continuing during the year 1901 in consequence of scanty rainfall and failure of crops, to address His Highness' Minister. The reply now received shows that His Highness' Government are alive to the fact that relief measures are necessary in the districts referred to.

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* Not printed.

3. Without further information as to the area and population of the affected districts I am not in a position to criticise the arrangements made and under contemplation by His Highness' Government. This information will be called for and a further report will be submitted.

4. The Minister will also be requested to furnish returns in the usual form showing the progres of relief measures.

The information now given, which will be furnished to the Government of Bombay, is, I trust, sufficient to show that His Highness' Government are prepared to meet the distress, which, it must be feared, will increase in intensity during the approaching hot weather.

Enclosure 1 in No. 245.

Letter from W. E. Jardine, Esq., First Assistant Resident, to His Highness the Nizam's Minister, Hyderabad, No. 3024, *dated Hyderabad Residency, the* 14*th December*, 1900.

The reports published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* show that the rainfall has been very deficient in the Sholapur and Ahmednagar districts, and that the numbers of persons on famine relief works have been steadily increasing during the past month. The prospects in the districts of the Bombay Presidency are generally unsatisfactory. Prices are very high, crops are withering, and reports have reached the Residency of large numbers of persons wandering towards Berar in search of employment.

2. In these circumstances it is probable that distress exists in the districts of His Highness' dominions bordering on the Bombay Presidency, *viz.*, Naldurg, Bir, Aurangabad, and perhaps parts of Gulbarga. The Resident will be obliged by your informing him of the actual condition of these districts as regards (1) harvest of rain-crops; (2) prospects of the *rabi*; (3) prices of food-grains; (4) quantities of grain available; and (5) the general condition of the people.

3. The Resident presumes that full reports have been received by His Highness' Government from the Famine Commissioner and the local revenue officials, and he will be glad to receive for the information of the Government of India such details as can be promptly given on the points noted, as also an account of the measures which His Highness' Government purpose to take for meeting the distress, which probably already exists, in those districts where the rainfall has been scanty and crops have failed. Mention, you will find, has been made in the season report of the Hyderabad State for the week which ended on the 1st December, 1900, that matters have not improved in any way in the districts of Aurangabad, Bir, and Naldurg, and that in the Parenda taluq of the last named district the agricultural prospects have become uncheerful, and that arrangements are in progress for starting relief works there. It is very necessary in the circumstances that steps should be taken at once to prevent people from leaving their villages in search of food and employment, and I am to enquire what form of relief has been sanctioned, and how many poor-houses and kitchens are already in existence or have been sanctioned, and where such works, poor-houses, &c., are situated.

4. This information, I am to add, is urgently required to enable this office to communicate it to the officers of neighbouring British districts and to the Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.

Enclosure 2 in No. 245.

Letter from the Nawab Sir Vikar-ul-Umra Bahadur, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Nizam's Minister, to the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 88, *dated Hyderabad, the* 17*th January*, 1901.

With reference to your letter No. 3024, dated the 14th December, 1900, enquiring as to the condition of some of His Highness' districts bordering on the

Bombay Presidency, I write to inform you that it appears from the latest reports received from the Famine Commissioner and the local Revenue Officers that parts of three districts in the Aurangabad Subadari (viz., Aurangabad, Bir, and Parbhani), and of one district in the Gulbarga Division (viz., Naldurg) have been affected by the insufficient rainfall this year, which has to a certain extent retarded the crops, and caused a scarcity of drinking water. The area even in these few districts, over which distress will be probably felt as the season advances, is not very large, as only two taluqs in the Aurangabad district, viz., Gangapur and Vizapur, two in Bir, viz., Ashti and Patoda, one in Parbhani, viz., Jintur, and one in Naldurg, viz., Parenda, are reported to be in a bad state. In the Aurengabad taluqs the rainfall was so small that both the kharif and rabi crops suffered to a large extent. But in the taluqs of Bir and Parbhani districts above referred to only the rabi crops have been affected. In the Parenda taluq the total rainfall was less than 12 inches, or not even half the average normal rainfall. The kharif outturn was accordingly less than 8 annas in the rupee, and the rabi crops have also suffered, but no correct estimate can be yet made as to their outturn. In all the affected taluqs there will be a scarcity of drinking water, and as the hot weather approaches some hardship will be experienced on this account. There are at present no statistics to show the quantities of grain available in the affected taluqs, but prices have generally remained unchanged. The ryots as a class will not probably feel the pinch to any considerable extent this year, as they can fall back upon the kharif crop, but the labouring classes and the balotedars* will suffer.

* Petty village officers or servants who receive a share of the crops, &c.

The Government has already taken active steps to meet the situation which has thus arisen. As the area affected is comparatively small and the need of relief will be chiefly confined to labourers, and as Mr. A. J. Dunlop, Famine Commissioner, is, moreover, shortly to proceed on leave, it has been considered desirable this year to entrust the work of relief to Revenue Officers, who, it is hoped, will be able to carry out the necessary measures efficiently. The sinking of wells for drinking and agricultural purposes has been sanctioned. The cost of the wells for drinking water will be met from the Local Funds, and where these funds are not sufficient the necessary amounts will be advanced by the Government. The cultivators or landholders will be encouraged and assisted by takavi to sink wells for irrigation on their lands, or where this is impracticable the work will be carried on directly under Government agency. A sum of three lakhs has already been allotted for these works in the affected taluqs of the Aurangabad Division, and of one lakh in the Naldurg district of the Gulbarga Division. A sufficient number of wells will be taken in hand immediately to afford employment to all labourers who may be in search of work ; and as the wells will mostly be in, or near, the villages affected, the labourers will be able to find employment not far from their homes.

As it is doubtful, however, whether these proposals will suffice to give employment to all persons in want of relief, two of the relief works in the Naldurg district commenced during the last year's famine and left unfinished have been ordered to be completed, whilst as regards other works similarly undertaken in the Aurangabad and other affected districts a report has been called for from the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, General Branch, and as soon as it is received the necessary orders for their completion will be issued.

It is believed that the works detailed above will meet all the requirements of the case. But should the development of the situation call for further measures, arrangements will be made to employ those in search of relief on the great irrigation works in Telingana.

I may here state that the poor-houses opened in the Aurangabad, Parbhani and Naldurg districts are still in existence, and that at the end of December, 1900, there were 1,225 persons on the aggregate receiving relief therein. If necessary, the number of the poor-houses will be increased.

In case the existing Revenue establishments in any of the affected areas are found to be insufficient to cope with the situation, officials from the Settlement and Public Works Departments will be deputed to strengthen the present staff.

It will thus be seen that although the difficulties to be met this year are on a smaller and more limited scale, His Highness' Government has made every preparation rendered necessary by the present situation.

No. 246.

Letter from the Resident at Hyderabad to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 254, *dated Hyderabad Residency, the* 18*th May*, 1901.

In continuation of my letter No. 54, dated the 24th January, 1901, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally cited letters from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, regarding famine in the Hyderabad State.

Letter No. 494, dated the 15th April 1901.
Letter No. 565, dated the 2nd May 1901,* and enclosure.

2. The Minister has been requested with reference to the statement forwarded with his letter, No. 565, dated the 2nd May, 1901, to forward a map showing the affected tracts as required by Rule V. of the rules for Famine Reports relating to Native States received with Foreign Department letter, No. 1881 I., dated the 7th May, 1892. The map on receipt will be duly submitted to the Government of India.

3. The figures given in the statement now submitted have considerably increased during the past six weeks; the last season's report for the week ending 11th May shows 12,732 on relief works and 853 gratuitously relieved, or a total of 13,585.

Enclosure in No. 246.

Letter from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, Hyderabad, to the First Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 494, *dated the* 15*th April*, 1901.

With reference to correspondence ending with your letter, No. 849, dated 6th April, 1901, regarding the submission of monthly returns in connection with famine measures, I beg to inform you that the famine operations for 1310 Fasli practically commenced from March, and the officers to whom the work has been entrusted this year have been instructed to submit monthly statements similar to those formerly sent in by the Famine Commissioner, and that these will be regularly transmitted to you from time to time.

No. 247.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 285, *dated Hyderabad Residency, the* 15*th June*, 1901.

I have the honour to submit for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally-cited correspondence that has passed between this Residency and His Highness the Nizam's Minister, regarding the famine relief measures adopted by His Highness's Government.

Letter from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 398, dated the 25th March, 1901.

Letter to His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 1,069. dated the 3rd May, 1901.

Letter from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 665, dated the 22nd May, 1901.

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* Forwarding famine statement—not printed.

2. I also submit for the information of the Government of India, with reference to paragraph 3 of my letter, No. 54, dated the 24th of January, 1901, a copy of a letter, No. 641, dated the 21st May, 1901, from His Highness's Minister, together with a copy of the statement therein referred to, showing the total area and population of each of the districts affected by the famine this year.

3. To enable me to furnish the monthly famine reports of the Hyderabad State to the Government of India within the prescribed time, I asked the Minister to arrange for the transmission of each statement by the 10th of the month following that to which it relates, and I enclose a copy of his reply,* which explains the difficulty of submitting this report punctually.

Under Rule VI. of the Rules for Famine Reports relating to Native States. Copy received under Foreign Department letter No. 1881 I., dated the 7th May, 1892.

* From His Highness's Minister. No. 643, dated the 21st May, 1901,

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Enclosure 1 in No. 247.

Letter from Nawab Sir Vikar-ul-Umra, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Nizam's Minister, to Captain W. Haig, First Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 398, dated the 25th March, 1901.

With reference to Mr. Jardine's letter, No. 615, dated 12th March, 1901, on the subject of famine relief works in His Highness's dominions in 1310 Fasli, I beg to inform you that the Subedars of Aurangabad and Gulburga have been instructed to inform the Collectors of the adjoining districts in British territory of all relief works already opened in His Highness's dominions, and to give them timely intimation of similar works which may be started in future.

2. I give below a list of the works already sanctioned for communication to the Government of Bombay, and intimation will be given in future of other works that may be sanctioned from time to time. I may add that orders have also been issued for the opening of poor-houses, where necessary, for the maintenance of the weak and infirm.

Annexure.

LIST OF WORKS.

AURANGABAD DISTRICT.

The Vizapur Taluk of this district has been somewhat largely affected, and the Gangapur and Bhokardan Taluks have also suffered to some extent. Well-sinking has, therefore, been started in these three taluks, and the following works besides have been sanctioned :—

(1) The Vizapur-Ashti road.
(2) The Lasora-Boregaon road.
(3) Repair of Khuldabad tank.

BIR DISTRICT.

Only two taluks, Patodi and Ashti, are affected in this district, and for the present well-sinking has been commenced there.

PARBHANI DISTRICT.

A portion of one taluk only, viz., Jintur, is affected, and well-sinking has been accordingly undertaken.

NALDRUG DISTRICT.

In this district the Parenda Taluk and some villages of Taljapur have suffered. Consequently, the following works have been sanctioned in addition to well-sinking, which has already been commenced :—

(1) The Ramdarah tank.
(2) The Tuljapur Ghat.
(3) The Dharaseo-Sholapur road.
(4) The Yermala-Mominabad road.

Enclosure 2 in No. 247.

Letter from Captain W. Haig, First Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, to Nawab Sir Vikar-ul-Umra, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 1,069, *dated the 3rd May*, 1901.

I am desired to address you, in continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter, No. 930, dated 18th April, 1901, on the subject of the continued increase in the number of recipients of famine relief, and especially of those gratuitously relieved, and to request the favour of an early reply to the letter cited above.

2. The Resident will be glad to learn, for the information of the Government of India, what system of relief has been adopted, the rates of wages, the kind of work opened for relief, and whether works are conducted on the principle of famine relief works as contemplated by the Code, or as ordinary labour under contractors, or by piece work.

3. The Resident wishes to be assured that all relief measures are under competent supervision, and that there is no danger of distress supervening to such an extent as to cause a sudden alteration in the system adopted by His Highness's Government.

Enclosure 3 in No. 247.

Letter from Nawab Sir Vikar-ul-Umra, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Nizam's Minister, to Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Resident at Hyderabad, No. 665, *dated the 22nd May*, 1901

With reference to your letter, No. 1069, dated the 3rd May, 1901, on the subject of famine relief, I write to say that the statement asked for in your letter, No. 930, dated the 18th April, 1901, and in the preceding letters to which reference has been made therein, have already been sent to you. If you will kindly refer to paragraph 2 of your letter, No. 229, dated the 21st January 1901, in which the statements were first called for, you will see that you asked for information as to the area and population of each affected district in a tabular form, and that you also asked for returns similar to those furnished by Mr. A. J. Dunlop when he was the Famine Commissioner. A statement containing the information connected with the area and population of each affected district was sent to you, with my letter, No. 641, dated 21st May, 1901, and the monthly famine statement for March, 1901, was forwarded with my letter, No. 565, dated 2nd May, 1901. You will thus observe that no point referred to in the previous correspondence ending with your letter No. 930 remains unanswered.

2. As regards the information desired in paragraphs 2 and 3 of your letter under reply, I may mention that the system of relief adopted this year has been fully described in my letter to you, No. 88, dated 17th January, 1901. I have also, in my letter, No. 398, dated the 25th March, 1901, furnished details as to irrigation wells which have been taken in hand, and also as regards the roads, the construction of which was commenced during the last famine, and which are now being pushed forward to completion.

3. The undermentioned further works have since been sanctioned :—

AURANGABAD DISTRICT.

(1.) Repairs to Khaksar Shah Saheb's tank.
(2.) The Abpashi Burrah tank.
(3.) The platform of the Khuldabad bungalow.
(4.) Completion of the Gangapur-Lasora road.
(5.) Completion of the Patan road.

BIR DISTRICT.

(1.) Completion of the 1st section of the Jamkhed-Ahmednagar road.
(2.) Completion of the 2nd section of the Jamkhed-Ahmednagar road.

NALDRUG DISTRICT.

(1.) Completion of the Barsi-Parenda road.
(2.) The Latur-Yedsi road.

4. As it was recently reported that some distress was being felt in the Patti Amrabad owing to want of work, sanction has been granted for the construction of a road from Mannanur to the summit of the Amrabad hill in the Mahbubnagar district.

5. A sum of one lakh of rupees has also been sanctioned as taccavi to cultivators for purchase of agricultural cattle in the affected taluks.

6. The work as regards wells are being carried out under the supervision of the Revenue officers, whilst the roads are being constructed as ordinary public works under the superintendence of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

7. I may assure you that all work connected with relief measures has been entrusted to competent officers, and that the Talukdars and Subedars of the affected areas are exercising proper supervision. No famine, much less a severe famine, can at present be said to be actually in existence anywhere, there being only a scarcity in the localities affected. Under these circumstances, His Highness's Government do not consider that there is any ground to apprehend that it may be necessary to introduce any change in the present system of relief.

Annexure I.

Letter from Nawab Sir Vikar-ul-Umra, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Nizam's Minister, to Captain W. Haig, First Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 641, dated the 21st May, 1901.

With reference to your letter, No. 930, dated 18th April, 1901, I beg to forward herewith a statement showing the total area and population of each of the districts affected by the famine this year, as well as the area and population affected in each district.

Statement of area and population of the districts affected by famine in His Highness the Nizam's Dominions.

No.	Name of District.	Total area and population of the district.		Area affected and its population.		Remarks.
		Area in square miles.	Population.	Area in square miles.	Population.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1	Aurangabad	6,176	719,049	783	59,478	
2	Bir	4,460	470,722	126	10,862	
3	Parbhani	5,087	644,815	24	1,068	
4	Naldrug	4,010	540,925	331	34,851	
	Total	19,733	2,375,511	1,264	106,259	

Annexure II.

Letter from Nawab Sir Vikar-ul-Umra, K.C.I.E., His Highness the Nizam's Minister, to Captain W. Haig, First Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 643, dated the 21st May, 1901.

With reference to your letter, No. 1081, dated the 4th May, 1901, I beg to say that the utmost practicable despatch will be used in transmitting the statement for famine operations. But as they have to pass through several offices, for instance, in the case of

work carried out by the Revenue Department, they have to be sent from the tahsil to the district, and from the district office to the Subedari and thence to Government, it is difficult to arrange that they should reach the Honourable the Resident not later than the 10th of the month following that to which they relate.

No. 248.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 430, *dated, Hyderabad Residency, the 7th December*, 1901.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter, No. 1739, dated the 1st December, 1901, from His Highness the Nizam's Minister on the subject of relief operations in the Hyderabad State.

2. His Highness's Government do not, it will be seen, consider it necessary to furnish any further monthly statements of famine relief operations in the State, and in the circumstances the monthly statement, hitherto forwarded by this office, will be discontinued.

Enclosure in No. 248.

Letter from Maharaja Peshkar Kishen Pershad Bahadur, Officiating Minister to His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, to Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Resident at Hyderabad, No. 1739, *dated the 1st December*, 1901.

In continuation of my letter No. 1663, dated 21st November, 1901, forwarding the monthly statement of the famine relief operations in His Highness's Dominions, I beg to state that the Subedar of Aurangabad reports that all famine relief works have now been closed, and the construction of irrigation wells by cultivators or through the Public Works Department has also been stopped, because most of the wells are finished, and the work on those not yet completed has been put off on account of the cultivators being engaged in other agricultural operations at present.

These unfinished wells will be again taken in hand and completed when the cultivators are free to resume work. All the wells in the Aurangabad District, the construction of which was entrusted to the Public Works Department, have been finished. No intimation has yet been received by the Subedar of the completion of the Ahmednagar-Jamkhed Road, but from the weekly returns he gathers that that works also is at present not in progress, and that for the reasons above alluded to, the number of labourers employed is very small. Under these circumstances it does not appear necessary to furnish any further monthly statements of famine relief operations in this State, and therefore the statement hitherto sent will be discontinued from the current month, November.

VII.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

AGRICULTURAL ADVANCES

IN

BALUCHISTAN.

No. 249.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, Camp, No. 1175 I.-A., dated the 7th March, 1900.

Your letters 11 C., February 8th ;* 270 C., February 23rd ;* and 312 C., February 27th,* regarding scarcity in Baluchistan. Grants of Rs. 18,000 for Marri and Bugti grain doles, and of Rs. 25,000 for road works are sanctioned for the current financial year. For next financial year provision of Rs. 7,000 will be made for Marris and Bugtis, and Rs. 1,40,000 for roads or other relief works. These are in addition to annual assignment to Baluchistan revenues. Rs. 20,000 additional for taccavi will also be granted.

No. 250.

Letter from H. S. Barnes, Esq., C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4725, dated Quetta, the 21st May, 1900.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram, No. 1175 I.-A., dated the 7th March, 1900, regarding the scarcity in Baluchistan, I have the honour to forward, for the orders of the Government, copies of the correspondence, cited in the margin, on the subject of a further increase in the Agency allotment in the current year for agricultural loans.

From the Revenue Commissioner, No. 1470, dated the 15th May, 1900, and enclosure.

2. I beg to support very strongly the proposal made by the Revenue Commissioner that the allotment be increased by a further sum of Rs. 40,000, to a total for the year of Rs. 1,10,000. As I have already reported to the Government of India, the loss of cattle in parts of the Zhob and the Thal-Chotiali districts has been very heavy, and the further enquiries since made show that in many villages the people are quite unable to cultivate their lands unless assistance can be given to them for seed grain, and for the purchase of plough bullocks. The kharif harvest in Sibi, Duki, Barkhan and Sharigh is a

* See pages 534, 552, and 556 of Command Paper No. 206, presented in 1900.

valuable one, and in these tahsils and in parts of Zhob, recent rain and floods have given the people the opportunity of cultivation if they are able to take advantage of it at once. But to enable them to do so, it is imperative that they should be given some help to replace the plough cattle which they have lost, and to procure the necessary seed. Without assistance not only will the people lose an opportunity of recovering their prosperity, but the Government will also lose revenue, which in these tahsils is chiefly taken by "batai" or division of the crops, and we may also be confronted later on with further demands for expenditure on relief works. On every ground therefore, I think it will prove to be both politic and economical to spend some money in giving the assistance which is asked for.

3. As explained by the Revenue Commissioner, the ordinary annual grant for agricultural loans* in this Agency stands at Rs. 50,000, and this has recently been increased in the current year to Rs. 70,000.† The ordinary grant of Rs. 50,000 is generally spent in loans under the Land Improvement Act for the construction and repair of Karezes and other irrigation channels, and as the demand for these advances throughout the Agency is very large, and many applications were refused last year from want of funds, it would, I think, be very short-sighted to grant no advances of this kind in the current year, more especially as the scarcity of rain has led to the drying up or diminution of many karezes, so that the demands for assistance in deepening and repairing works of this kind are more numerous than usual. Moreover, some grants under this head have already been made in Quetta and Pishin and more have been promised. On the other hand, the demand, owing to the scarcity, for special loans under the Agriculturists Loans Act for the purchase of bullocks and seed grain now amount to Rs. 70,000 in Thal-Chotiali and Zhob alone, and these demands would swallow up the whole of the grant for the year even if it were all available. I may mention that recently in the Thalli village alone in the Sibi district I have had to sanction an immediate advance of Rs. 4,000 to enable the people to take advantage of the opportunity of cultivation afforded by the recent rains, and the requirements of other villages are equally urgent. Assuming then that we restrict advances under the Land Improvement Act to Rs. 40,000 for the year, which is, I think, the lowest sum with which we can manage, the account stands as follows :—

* Foreign Department letter No. 1610 E., dated the 4th August, 1890.

† Foreign Department telegram No. 1175, I-A., dated the 7th March, 1900.

—	Rs.	Rs.
Ordinary taccavi advances throughout the Agency under the Land Improvement Act.	40,000	
Special advances now required for seed grain and plough bullocks in Thal-Chotiali.	50,000	
Special advances now required for seed grain and plough bullocks in Zhob.	20,000	
Total		1,10,000
Deduct grant sanctioned for the year—		
Ordinary	50,000	
Special	20,000	
Total		70,000
Still required		40,000

For the reasons now given I would beg very earnestly that this additional grant may be sanctioned, and as the matter is urgent, if cattle are to be purchased and lands are to be sown for the kharif, I would ask that orders may be communicated to me by telegram.

4. As regards the question alluded to by the Revenue Commissioner, of interest on the special loans for seed grain and plough cattle, I believe the Government of India are prepared in this year of scarcity to deal very liberally with those who are compelled by their heavy losses to ask for loans of this kind. I propose in this matter to deal with each case on its merits, and to sanction the loans that may be given either subject to the usual rate of interest or at a lower rate, or without interest, as may seem expedient in each instance. If any special instructions have been issued this year on this subject, I should be glad if I can be supplied with copies.

Enclosure in No. 250.

Letter from E. G. Colvin, Esq., Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, No. 1470, *dated the* 15*th May*, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for favour of your early consideration, the question of an additional grant for taccavi advances during the current year.

2. The ordinary annual grant for taccavi advances of the Agency is Rs. 50,000, and a further sum of Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned by the Government of India for this year.

Foreign Department telegram No. 1175 I-A., dated the 7th March, 1900.

3. During the drought of the last three years, a large number of plough cattle have died throughout the Agency, the mortality being especially heavy in the Thal-Chotiali and Zhob districts. In Quetta-Pishin the winter snow improved prospects greatly, and the demand for plough cattle is not so urgent. The mortality of cattle in Thal-Chotiali and Zhob, coupled with the later rainfall in these districts, has created an unusually large demand for taccavi advances for seed grain and plough cattle. It is, I think, necessary to meet these demands, not only in the interests of the cultivators, but in the interests of Government as well; if plough cattle are not replaced at once, the revenue will undoubtedly suffer very seriously. I beg to enclose a copy of letter, No. 315 C., dated the 30th April, 1900, from the Political Agent, Thal-Chotiali, in which Captain Archer, has stated the case for his district, and explains that at least Rs. 50,000 are required for special loans for seed and bullocks. The Political Agent, Zhob, has, at present, only communicated his requirements by telegram, and they are as follows :—

—	Rs
Special loans for seed and bullocks ...	20,000
Ordinary taccavi	7,000

A further report giving further details will be submitted in regard to Zhob when received, but the circumstances are no doubt the same as in Thal-Chotiali, the loss in cattle in the Bori and Musa Khel Tahsils having been specially heavy. The extraordinary requirements of the two districts during the present year cannot, I think, be adequately met with less than Rs. 70,000. The ordinary taccavi grant for the province might, on the other hand, be reduced

this year from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 40,000. It will thus be seen that the total amount required this year comes to Rs. 1,10,000, or Rs. 40,000 more than has at present been sanctioned. The circumstances, are, I think, of a special nature, and I would, therefore, suggest that an early application may be made to the Government of India for a further grant of Rs. 40,000 for the current year.

4. In his letter dated the 30th April, 1900, Captain Archer has raised the question of interest, but I do not think any special orders of the Government of India are necessary on this point. The rules in force seem to give sufficient authority to the Local Government and the Political Agents to decide in each case whether interest should be charged or not. I see no reason why the advances for seed should not be recovered from the next two harvests. The period for repayment of advances on account of cattle might be postponed for three years.

Annexure.

Letter from Captain C. Archer, Deputy Commissioner, Thal-Chotiali, to the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, No. 315 C., dated the 30th April, 1900.

I have the honour to address you on the subject of the allotments for taccavi advances in the Thal-Chotiali district for the year 1900–1901.

2. I have not yet received intimation of the amount which it will be practicable to allot to the district this year, but presumably it will not at the outside exceed one-third of the total allotment for the Agency, which I understand has been raised this year to Rs. 70,000. Thus, in the most favourable circumstances, Thal-Chotiali cannot hope to receive more than Rs. 24,000.

3. I anticipated that there would be a great demand for taccavi advances this year to replace the plough cattle lost during the drought, but the applications have far exceeded my expectations both in number and amount. The recent favourable rains in the Duki, Barkhan, and Sharigh Tahsils have flooded a large amount of "sailaba" land, and have given opportunities of cultivation which the people are eager to seize upon as their only chance of retrieving their losses during the last disastrous years. On my arrival at Duki recently I was flooded with petitions for advances for the purchase of bullocks and seed grain amounting in all to over Rs. 20,000 in that tahsil alone. According to detailed lists furnished by the Maliks, the total losses of bullocks in the tahsil amount to 1,230. Further enquiry may show that this number is exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the losses have been very heavy, the mortality owing to the cold in January and February having undoubtedly been great. In some villages there are not enough bullocks left for the rabi harvesting operations, not to mention the work on "bunds" and the ploughing required for the next kharif. Even if the alleged total losses were reduced by one-third, we should have a total of 900 bullocks lost, and it must, I think, be assumed that the cultivation of the tahsil will suffer seriously unless these are replaced. Assuming that half of the owners are in a position to replace them at their own expense, or can obtain credit from banias, there would remain 450 bullocks lost by owners who cannot replace them without Government help. There are about 50 villages, large and small, in the tahsil, and this would give an average of nine bullocks per village to be replaced, which, in my opinion, is not at all high. Taking the average cost of each bullock at Rs. 30 (and the demand in Baluchistan and throughout India being what it is, this is a very low estimate), we arrive at a total of over Rs. 15,000 required in Duki alone.

4. Returns from the other tahsils show a similar state of things. Barkhan asks for Rs. 10,000, Kohlu for at least Rs. 1,200, Sharigh for Rs. 7,700, while the Sibi villages, if there is a good summer rainfall to flood the "sailaba" lands, will require Rs. 15,300; allowing only Rs. 800 for for Sinjawi (which is below the mark), the total arrived at is Rs. 50,000. For these tahsils detailed information as to the total losses in cattle are not as yet available, but the necessity for the advances applied for has been carefully considered by the Extra Assistant Commissioner in each case, and the totals asked for, in my opinion, are not at all likely to exceed the actual requirements.

5. It will be seen that no provision has been made in this estimate for advances under the Land Improvement Act for improvements to land, construction of water-courses, &c. A number of applications for loans on this account remained pending last year for want of funds, and more are expected in the ordinary course. It would be very unfortunate if these had to be held over, but I do not think we should be justified in postponing to loans for improvements, any of the loans for the purchase of cattle and seed which is a still more urgent matter. I estimate that about Rs. 10,000, the ordinary allotment of the district, will be required for loans under the Land Improvement Act.

6. I earnestly trust that, under the circumstances, the Agent to the Governor-General will move the Government of India to make a further allotment for taccavi advances, so as to admit of the grant of the full amount above estimated as necessary. I am strongly of opinion that this will be the most economical and the least objectionable way of providing the relief required. If we give help now on a liberal scale, we may hope that, with the return of good seasons, the zamindars will shortly regain their ordinary level of prosperity. If, on the other hand, we do not give them the wherewithal to resume cultivation, good seasons will be of little use to them, their lands will fall out of cultivation, and we may have to face the necessity for expending large sums on gratuitous relief.

7. It will, I think, be necessary in most instances to extend the time allowed for the repayment of these loans in the case of those for seed grain to two years, and in that of loans for the purchase of bullocks to five years. It would greatly increase the benefit conferred by the loans if they could be made without interest, and in the special circumstances I trust that this may be sanctioned. If this is considered inadvisable, I would urge that the interest should be reduced to 3½ per cent.

8. As the grant of these loans is a matter of great urgency in all cases except that of Sibi, I trust that I may be favoured with very early orders on this application.

No. 251.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, No. 2430 I.-A., dated the 4th June, 1900.

Your letter, 4725, May 21st. Increase of Rs. 40,000 to Agency Allotment for agricultural loans in current year is sanctioned. Orders regarding recovery of advances for seed and cattle will be posted to you.

No. 252.

Letter from Captain P. T. Spence, Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, No. 2439 I.-A., dated Simla, the 5th June, 1900.

In continuation of the telegram from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 2430 I.-A., dated the 4th June, 1900, I am directed to forward for your guidance a copy of the letter marginally cited, containing orders regarding the special terms on which advances for seed, cattle, &c., are to be made.

From the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department to certain Local Governments, Nos. 1042–1045 F., dated the 21st May, 1900.*

* Copy below.

2. The terms of the letter may be applied to these loans in Baluchistan.

Enclosure in No. 252.

Circular Letter from T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, the Chief Commissioner Central Provinces, the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara, Nos. 1042–1045 F., dated Simla, 21st May, 1900.

I am directed to say that, as a special measure, undertaken with the object of facilitating the recovery of agriculturists in famine tracts from

the losses sustained from drought, the Government of India are pleased to direct—

(1) That all advances made in famine tracts under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for seed, cattle and subsistence of cultivators, in connection with agriculture operations undertaken during the approaching rains, may be made free of interest ;

(2) That the first instalment in repayment of the principal of such advances may be postponed for 12 months from date of the advance. The dates for the remaining instalments will be determined by the Local Government with reference to the existing rules applicable to advances under the Act ;

(3) That the Local Government may hereafter grant remissions in respect of the principal of such advances, according to the circumstances of the debtors, up to one-half the aggregate sum advanced in the province.

VIII.

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA REGARDING MEASURES FOR PROVIDING RESERVES OF FODDER.

No. 253.

Letter from O. V. Bosanquet, Esq., the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, and C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Nos. 1175-1176 *I.-A. dated Fort William, the* 18*th March*, 1901.

The mortality among cattle which has been so marked a feature of the late famine, has again attracted attention to the importance of providing reserves of fodder for use in years of drought.

2. The subject has been repeatedly considered in the direction both of the formation of grass and fodder reserves and of the storage of cut fodder. Some details of the discussions will be found in the marginally cited Resolutions* of the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department which may usefully be studied. It has been proved that even in the most barren tracts, the exclusion of animals, particularly sheep and goats, is sufficient in a few years to ensure a plentiful vegetation, which when once established can be successfully maintained. The present seems a peculiarly favourable opportunity for undertaking measures of the kind. With the contraction in the number of cattle, the restriction of the free-grazing area would not be felt; while their recent losses should enlist the intelligent co-operation of the people in a scheme, the ultimate advantage of which to themselves they can hardly fail to recognise. The sites to be reserved must be carefully selected so that on the one hand they may be accessible to, and sufficiently large for, the tract which they are designed to protect, and that on the other hand they shall not encroach on existing cultivation, where this can be avoided, or interfere with the future extension of cultivation where it can be profitably and safely undertaken. The importance of an adequate water-supply has been separately brought to your notice.†

*No. 16 A. dated the 1st March, 1883 } published No. 17—105, dated the 15th July, 1891 } in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

† Letter from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 2969 I.-A., dated the 13th October, 1899.

3. Fodder and grass reserves already exist in some States, and there will probably be little difficulty in persuading the Darbars to improve and add to the area. Both in Rajputana and Central India there are numerous grasses, plants, and trees, which yield excellent fodder. Better results may be expected from the propagation of these indigenous species than from the introduction of exotics: and the experience of the recent famine should furnish important data as to their respective drought-resisting and productive qualities. The practice of cutting and stacking grass for private use obtains also to some extent throughout

Rajputana and Bundelkhand. It has hitherto been limited by the poverty or apathy of the agriculturist; but apparently, if encouraged by the States, it might be largely and profitably extended, so as to provide a valuable reserve against years of excessive drought when other sources of supply are less dependable.

4. The Government of India are of opinion that the subject is one which may usefully be brought to the notice of the Darbars in the Rajputana (Central India) Agency. They do not overlook the fact that there is great difficulty in making any satisfactory provision for grass and fodder in a year of extreme drought. But in ordinary dry years, grass reserves and forests are a great resource, and it is very desirable that Political Officers should place before the Darbars the results of the deliberations of the Government of India, and encourage them to maintain existing grass preserves and grazing grounds, and to increase the grass areas so far as this can be done without injury to cultivation. The attention of the States should also be directed to the practice of storing fodder. At a later date the Government of India will be glad to receive from you a report as to the attitude of the Darbars on this important question and as to the measures which they are inclined to adopt.

IX.

STATEMENT OF LOANS.

Statement of Famine Loans to Native States (other than those of the Bombay Presidency) sanctioned by the Government of India from October, 1899, to 27th March, 1902.

States.	Amounts		Conditions.		Remarks.
	Applied for.	Sanctioned.	Interest per annum.	Term of repayment.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Class I.—Loans by the Government of India.					
Central India.	Rs.	Rs.			
Barwani	1,50,000	1,50,000	4 per cent.		
Jaora	3,85,000(*a*)	3,85,000	4 per cent. ..	7 years.	(*a*) See under Clause III. for Central India.
Multhan	22,000	22,000		5½ „	
Sohawal	2,000	2,000		2 „	
Jhabua	1,35,000	1,35,000	Not yet settled.		
Jobat	50,000	50,000			
Ali Rajpur	50,000	50,000			
Rajputana.					
Bundi	4,56,333*	3,00,000	4 per cent. ..	3 years.	* Differences represent amounts disallowed as excessive. In the case of Shahpura, the Agent to the Governor-General has since admitted that the additional ½ lakh is not needed.
Dungarpur	2,00,000	2,00,000		5 „	
Jaisalmer	50,000	50,000		Within ten years.	
Kishengarh	1,50,000	1,50,000		4 years.	
Kota	19,50,000*	12,42,360†			† Rupees 2,17,360=suspension of tribute. Payment of first instalment of loan and tribute deferred till 1905.
Lawa	20,000	20,000			
Marwar	35,35,000	35,35,000			
Mewar	5,00,000	5,00,000		Within 10 years.	
Mewar Hill Tracts	1,97,200	1,97,200			
Partabgarh	2,00,000	2,00,000			
Shahpura	1,50,000*	1,00,000			
Sirohi	2,00,000	2,00,000		Half yearly instalments of Rs. 10,000 including principal and interest.	
Tonk	7,50,000*	6,00,000			
Whole Agency ..	1,50,000	1,50,000			Distribution not yet known.
Hyderabad.					
Hyderabad	2,00,00,000	2,00,00,000	4 per cent. ..	Repayable‡ by instalments of 3 lakhs payable by the Nizam and by 13 lakhs out of Berar surplus.	‡ (1) The Nizam's Government should pay to the Government of India a minimum sum of three lakhs of rupees annually on the 1st November. Payment of any additional amount that it may be possible and desirable to spare in any year may be made, provided that notice be given, not later than the 15th February on each occasion, of the intention to make such excess payment. (2) Fifteen lakhs of rupees a year should be paid to the Government of India from the Berar surplus (when the latter is sufficiently large to admit of the payment). But in years when the Berar surplus is less than 15 lakhs of rupees, the whole of the surplus should be devoted to repayment of the loan. The amount by which the repayment in such years falls short of 15 lakhs of rupees shall be recovered from the surplus of any succeeding year or years that is in excess of 15 lakhs. (3) Compound interest will not be charged in respect of any year in which the Berar surplus falls short by more than 3 lakhs of rupees of the simple interest due.

Statement of Famine Loans to Native States—*continued.*

States.	Amounts		Conditions.		Remarks.
	Applied for.	Sanctioned.	Interest per annum.	Term of repayment.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	CLASS I.—LOANS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—*contd.*				
Central Provinces.	Rs.	Rs.			
Sonpur	9,000	9,000	4 per cent. ..	5 years	Suspension of tribute. The Political Agent expected that with favourable harvests the amount could be recovered in one instalment.
Khairgarh	1,20,000	1,20,000(*a*)	Ditto ..	Ditto	(*a*) Includes Rs. 70,000 on account of suspension of tribute.
Nandgaon	2,50,506	2,50,506(*b*)	Ditto ..	10 years	(*b*) Includes Rs. 70,000 on account of suspension of tribute and Rs. 60,506 on account of suspension of *nazarana*.
Sakti	25,000	25,000(*c*)	Ditto ..	Ditto	(*c*) Provided by re-appropriation from the Provincial Loan Account.
Jatna	28,500	28,500(*d*)	Ditto ..	6 years	(*d*) Includes Rs. 8,500 on account of suspension of tribute.
Bengal.					
Tributary States of Orissa.	20,000	20,000	Not known ..	.. ..	Provided by re-appropriation from the Provincial Loan Account.
Punjab.					
Dujana	1,65,000	1,65,000	4 per cent. ..	3 years	
Loharu					
Pataudi					
	CLASS II.—LOANS FROM FUNDS SUPPLIED BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA SINDHIA.				
Central India.					
Dewas (Junior) ..	2,00,000	2,00,000	4 per cent. ..	Within 10 years..	
Dewas (Senior) ..	2,00,000	2,00,000			
Jhabua	1,00,000	1,00,000			
Jobat	25,000	25,000			
Karaudia	5,000	5,000			
Nagode	60,000	60,000			
Pathari	2,000	2,000			
Piploda	75,000	75,000			
Sailana	1,00,000	1,00,000			
Sohawal	7,000	7,000			
Rutlam	1,00,000	1,00,000		4 years	
Jaora	3,25,000	3,25,000		6 „	
TOTAL ..	11,99,000	11,99,000			
	CLASS III.—LOANS TO BE BORROWED IN THE OPEN MARKET OR FROM OTHER STATES UNDER GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE OR WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT.				
Central India.					
Barwani	1,00,000	1,00,000	5 per cent.		
Dhar	5,00,000	5,00,000	5 „ ..	5 years	
Barwani	1,00,000	1,00,000	5 „ ..	3 „	
Jaora	2,25,000	2,25,000	4½ „ ..	3 „	
Dewas (Senior) ..	1,00,000	1,00,000	4 „		Loans obtained from Indore.
Dewas (Junior) ..	2,00,000	2,00,000	4 „		Contingent payments (about Rs. 32,000 in all) postponed for one year.
Baroda.					
Baroda	50 to 125 lakhs.	£503,000	4 per cent. ..	1 year.	

Statement of famine loans sanctioned and actually advanced to 1899-1900 up to the

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	Estimated annual surplus.	Loans by Gov-			
						1899-1900.		1900-1901.	
						Sanctioned.	Advanced.	Sanctioned.	Advanced.
	KATHIAWAR AGENCY (a).			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	Class I.								
1	Navanagar	3,791·3	336,119	29,00,000 0 0	8,00,000 0 0		--		15,00,000 0 0
2	Bhavnagar	2,860	410,510	45,00,000 0 0	2,00,000 0 0		6,01,249 12 0		—
3	Dhrangadhra	1,156·5	70,746	6,13,772 0 0	1,57,250 0 0		3,05,278 0 0		4,50,000 0 0
	Class II.								
4	Vankaner	414·5	27,191	3,00,000 0 0	75,000 0 0		1,44,500 0 0		2,80,000 0 0
5	Dhrol	282·7	21,907	1,64,000 0 0	41,000 0 0		71,000 0 0		30,000 0 0
6	Rajkot	281·71	49,662	4,12,845 0 0	—		—		1,69,500 0 0
7	Wadhwan	236·1	34,753	4,25,000 0 0	80,000 0 0		1,38,000 0 0		2,71,500 0 0
	Class III.								
8	Sayla	222·1	11,635	1,00,000 0 0	22,000 0 0		66,000 0 0		4,000 0 0
9	Chuda..	78·2	11,919	92,000 0 0	23,000 0 0		50,000 0 0		10,000 0 0
	Class IV.								
10	Lathi	41·8	8,816	1,22,000 0 0	—		26,600 0 0		15,000 0 0
11	Muli	133·2	15,091	84,970 0 0	—		16,000 0 0		23,000 0 0
12	Bajana	183·12	10,290	1,00,000 0 0	25,000 0 0		50,000 0 0		40,000 0 0
13	Virpur	66·9	6,146	60,000 0 0	20,000 0 0		—		—
14	Malia	102·8	9,076	1,10,000 0 0	27,500 0 0		89,400 0 0		36,900 0 0
15	Kotda Sangani	74·4	8,836	1,25,000 0 0	90,000 0 3		46,000 0 0		56,000 0 0
16	Azam Vala Naja Kala ..	Not ascertainable.		1,25,000 0 0	31,250 0 0		25,000 0 0		38,000 0 0
17	Sardargadh			69,241 0 0	6,769 0 0		—		—
	Class V.					21,25,000 0 0		42,00,000 0 0	
18	Jalia Divani..	35·9	2,341	24,900 0 0	679 0 0		—		—
19	Kotharia	—	2,129	20,000 0 0	—		—		—
20	Gavridad	27·4	1,916	17,275 0 0	—		—		—
21	Pal	21·2	1,359	15,000 0 0	—		—		—
22	Gadhka	23·1	1,636	18,900 0 0	2,925 0 0		5,000 0 0		—
23	Mengni	34·5	3,354	33,000 0 0	—		12,920 0 0		7,000 0 0
24	Jetpur-Vala Godad and Vajsur Punja.	Not ascertainable.		67,000 0 0	7,000 0 0		—		—
25	Jetpur-Vala Ala Bhima..			86,000 0 0	2,500 0 0		—		—
26	Vanod..	—	3,904	40,000 0 0	—		10,000 0 0		13,230 12 10
27	Bantwa Babi Rustamkhanji.	Not ascertainable		27,000 0 0	9,800 0 0		—		—
	Class VI.								
28	Shapur	—	1,137	16,028 0 0	—		—		—
29	Bhadva	—	1,051	16,000 0 0	—		9,000 0 0		2,200 0 0
30	Rajpara	—	1,862	26,228 0 0	1,766 0 0		6,000 0 0		6,000 0 0
31	Jetpur, Vala Rana Mamaiya.	Not ascertainable.		16,000 0 0	4,000 0 0		2,500 0 0		4,000 0 0
32	Jetpur, Vala Loma Matra			31,000 0 0	7,750 0 0		6,000 0 0		6,000 0 0
33	Jetpur, Bhima Valera ..			46,330 0 0	—		—		—
34	Jetpur, Vala Kala Bhan..			30,200 0 0	—		—		—
35	Jetpur, Vala Nag Hamir			31,000 0 0	7,750 0 0		14,000 0 0		—
36	Jetpur, Vala Rukhad Gorkha.			62,500 0 0	15,625 0 0		27,000 0 0		10,000 0 0
37	Bagasra, Vala Ram Harsur.			—	—		26,000 0 0		24,391 0 0
38	Bagasra, Vajsur Valera ..			46,700 0 0	10,000 0 0		—		—

(a) The terms of repayment of the majority of the loans in the Kathiawar Agency were sanctioned in Foreign Department letter

Native States in the Bombay Presidency from the year 15th November, 1901.

ernment. 1901-1902. Sanctioned.	Advanced.	Total advanced.	Loans under guarantee. Amount received.	Total of famine loans.	Amount repaid.	Amount of advances to cultivators.	Remarks.	Rs. a. p.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
	—	15,00,000 0 0	1,40,000 0 0	16,40,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	6,01,249 12 0	30,00,000 0 0	36,01,249 12 0	6,01,249 12 0	—	Interest paid	9,549 9 4
	—	7,55,278 0 0	—	7,55,278 0 0	—	—		
	—	4,24,500 0 0	—	4,24,500 0 0	—	—	Interest paid	14,325 5 5
	—	1,01,000 0 0	—	1,01,000 0 0	1,01,000 0 0	—	Do.	1,685 14 8
	—	1,69,500 0 0	—	1,69,500 0 0	—	—	Do.	3,978 2 3
	—	4,09,500 0 0	—	4,09,500 0 0	—	—		
	—	70,000 0 0	1,05,000 0 0	1,75,000 0 0	70,000 0 0	—	Interest paid	1,280 10 6
	—	60,000 0 0	—	60,000 0 0	60,000 0 0	—	Do.	916 11 5
	—	41,600 0 0	—	41,600 0 0	20,000 0 0	—		
	—	39,000 0 0	—	39,000 0 0	39,000 0 0	—		
	50,000 0 0	1,40,000 0 0	—	1,40,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	—	1,00,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	—	—		
	38,000 0 0	1,64,300 0 0	—	1,64,300 0 0	1,26,300 0 0	—	Interest paid	1,997 9 3
	—	1,02,000 0 0	—	1,02,000 0 0	—	—	Do.	3,716 9 7
	—	63,000 0 0	—	63,000 0 0	63,000 0 0	—	Do.	739 2 11
	—	—	55,000 0 0	55,000 0 0	—	—		
8,00,000 0 0								
	—	—	20,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	—	25,000 0 0	25,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	—	20,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	—	20,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	5,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	25,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	Interest paid	491 3 10
	—	19,920 0 0	—	19,920 0 0	19,920 0 0	—	Do.	273 13 10
	—	—	60,000 0 0	60,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	—	64,000 0 0	64,000 0 0	—	—		
	6,200 0 0	29,430 12 10	—	29,430 12 10	23,230 12 10	—		
	—	—	19,000 0 0	19,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	—	12,000 0 0	12,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	11,200 0 0	—	11,200 0 0	11,200 0 0	—		
	—	12,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	32,000 0 0	12,000 0 0	—		
	—	6,500 0 0	—	6,500 0 0	6,500 0 0	—	Interest paid	72 14 7
	—	12,000 0 0	—	12,000 0 0	12,000 0 0	—	Do.	297 9 3
	—	—	33,000 0 0	33,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	—	25,000 0 0	25,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	14,000 0 0	—	14,000 0 0	14,000 0 0	—	Do.	197 11 2
	—	37,000 0 0	—	37,000 0 0	37,000 0 0	—	Do.	511 12 6
	—	50,391 0 0	—	50,391 0 0	—	—		
	—	—	47,500 0 0	47,500 0 0	—	—		

No. 3553-I.A., dated the 23rd September, 1901. Proposals as regards the remainder are awaited from the Political Agent.

Statement of famine loans sanctioned and actually advanced to Native States in the

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Population.	Reveuue.	Estimated annual surplus.	Loans by Gov-			
						1899-1900.		1900-1901.	
						Sanctioned.	Advanced	Sanctioned.	Advanced.
	KATHIAWAR AGENCY—*cont.*			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	Class VII.								
39	Khirasra	—	3,117	—	—		—		—
40	Lodhika, Jadeja Harisingji.	—	1,111	20,000 0 0	—		—		—
41	Vadali	—	409	—	—		—		—
	THANA CIRCLES.								
	Wadhwan, District Thana.								
42	Thana in general	196·475	15,356	1,73,899 0 0	43,425 0 0		21,052 0 11		76,888 6 2
43	Jhala Udesingh Atabbai and others, shareholders of Vana.	Included in Thana in general.		—	—		—		—
44	Jhala Khasubha Devisingh, share-holder of Vana.			—	—		—		—
45	Jhala Juwansinh and Khimubha Nagbha, shareholders of Vana.			—	—		—		—
46	Jhala Junaji Motibha ..			—	—		—		—
47	Jhala Gagubha Amarsinh, of Talsana.			1,500 0 0	400 0 0		—		—
48	Jhala Jainsinh Harisinh, of Vana.			7,200 0 0	1,160 0 0		—		—
49	Jhala Dhirsinh Patabhai, of Palali.			715 0 0	415 0 0		—		—
50	Jhala Naghhai Jethibhai, of Palali.			506 0 0	290 0 0		—		—
51	Jhala Ramsinhji Kalabhai, of Palali.			506 0 0	8,290 0 0		—		—
52	Jhala Patabhai Jalamsinh, Palali.			317 0 0	180 0 0		—		—
53	Jaswatsinh Shivsinh, of Palali.			208 0 0	75 0 0		—		—
54	Kalubha Junabhai, shareholder of Devalia.			1,296 0 0	686 0 0		—		—
55	Rana Harisinhji Agarsinhji and others, shareholders of Kesria.			1,377 0 0	377 0 0		—		—
56	Sardarsinh Udesinh, shareholder of Vanod.			400 0 0	100 0 0		—		—
57	Jhala Manubhai and Vakhatsinh, Vajesinh, of Palali.			1,130 0 0	414 0 0		—		—
57A	Jhala Takhatsinh Mulubhai, of Palali.			272 0 0	138 0 0		—		—
58	Halubhai Nayabhai, of Palali.			364 0 0	164 0 0	21,25,000 0 0	—	42,00,000 0 0	—
59	Bhimsinh and Fatesinh Amarsinh, Talukdars and shareholders of Jhamar.			885 0 0	295 0 0		—		—
	Chotila Thana.								
60	Thana in general	367·9	15,611	90,100 0 0	22,525 0 0		1,58,050 0 0		4,02,749 0 0
61	Khachar Jethsur Mansur, Anandpur Talukdar.	Included in Thana in general.		—	—		—		—
62	Bhoj Desa, shareholder of Anandpur.			10,000 0 0	4,500 0 0		—		—
	Bhoika Thana.								
63	Thana in general	178·388	15,696	327,300 0 0	81,825 0 0		6,317 0 0		99,386 7 9
64	Rana Jemabhai Ramabhai and Prabhatsinh Dharabhai, shareholders of Samla.	Included in Thana in general.		1,413 0 0	500 0 0		-		—
65	Jhala Prabhatsinh Harbhamji and others, shareholders of Bhalganda.			1,500 0 0	—		—		—
	Paliad Thana.								
66	Thana in general	227·3	13,913	80,850 0 0	20,213 0 0		17,000 0 0		1,41,951 10 8
67	Khachar Chela Odha, shareholder of Paliad.	Included in Thana in general.		2,048 0 0	748 0 0		-		—
68	Khachar Oghad Odha, shareholder of Paliad.			2,048 0 0	600 0 0		-		—
69	Khachar Laxman Mulu-shareholder of Paliad.			6,420 0 0	25 0 0		—		—
70	Khachar Lakha Giga, being minor, through his mother Devubai and Alag Dhana, Bhagdars of Khumbhara.			2,072 0 0	1,000 0 0		—		—
71	Khavads Vala Vira and Jina Rana and Bhoka Punja, shareholders of Sudamda Dhandhalpur.			5,250 0 0	1,850 0 0		—		—

Bombay Presidency from the year 1899-1900 up to the 15th November, 1901—*cont.*

ernment.	1901-1902.		Total advanced.	Loans under guarantee. Amount received.	Total of famine loans.	Amount repaid.	Amount of advances to cultivators.	Remarks.
	Sanctioned.	Advanced.						
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs a p.	Rs a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
	—		—	18,000 0 0	18,000 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	25,000 0 0	25,000 0 0	—	—	
	500 0 0		*500 0 0	4,000 0 0	4,500 0 0	—	—	*The whole Taluka has since been brought under management. This sum was advanced to the Talukdar and his co-sharers Nos. 126 and 128.
	—		97,940 7 1		97,940 7 1	—	—	
	—			2,001 0 0	2,001 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	350 0 0	350 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	350 0 0	350 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	350 0 0	350 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	2,001 0 0	2,001 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	5,001 0 0	5,001 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	115 0 0	115 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	280 0 0	280 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	290 0 0	290 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	250 0 0	250 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	180 0 0	180 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	735 0 0	735 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	725 0 0	725 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	800 0 0	800 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	500 0 0	500 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	220 0 0	220 0 0	—	—	
8,00,000 0 0	—		—	190 0 0	190 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	600 0 0	600 0 0	—	—	
	42,975 10 1		6,03,774 10 1	—	6,03,774 10 1	2,968 13		
	—		—	11,500 0 0	11,500 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	6,000 0 0	6,000 0 0	—		
	—		1,05,703 7 9	—	1,05,703 7 9	—	—	
	—		—	925 0 0	925 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	1,105 0 0	1,105 0 0	—	—	
	12,812 1 4		1,74,763 12 0	—	1,74,763 12 0	520 15 10	—	
	—		—	550 0 0	550 0 0		—	
	—		—	550 0 0	550 0 0		—	
	—		—	3,300 0 0	3,300 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	900 0 0	900 0 0	—	—	
	—		—	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	—	

Statement of famine loans sanctioned and actually advanced to Native States in the

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	Estimated annual surplus.	Loans by Gov			
						1899-1900.		1900-1901.	
						Sanctioned.	Advanced.	Sanctioned.	Advanced.
	KATHIAWAR AGENCY—*cont.*			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	Dasada Thana.								
72	Thana in general	119·76	10,941	1,69,000 0 0	42,250 0 0		17,300 0 0		10,995 0 0
73	Malek Motima *alias* Rasulkhanji Jafarkhanji, Dasada Talukdar.	Included in Thana in general.		23,331 0 0	9,220 0 0		—		4,120 0 0
74	Malek Saheb, of Dasada			—	—		—		4,800 0 0
75	Malek Jesarkhanji, of Dasada.			—	—		—		9,900 0 0
	Vithalghad Thana.								
76	Bhaskerrao Vithal and his sons, Talukdars of Vithalgadh (Hadala and Rasnal Pipalva).	Not ascertainable		30,380 0 0	—		—		—
	Jhinjhuvada Thana.								
77	Thana in general	164·6	11,732	1,50,000 0 0	37,500 0 0		25,579 15 8		85,136 0 0
78	Rozwa under Jhinjhuvada.	Included in Thana in general.		—	—		—		1,280 0 0
79	Thakor Bathiji Kanthat and Naruji Bhogoji, shareholders of Jhinjhuvada.			2,775 0 0	1,575 0 0		—		—
80	Thakor Prathiraj Sablaji, shareholder of Jhinjhuvada.			5,092 0 0	2,492 0 0		—		—
	Bagasra Thana.								
81	Vala Ram and Vira Mulu	Not ascertainable		—	—		8,000 0 0		12,148 0 0
	Lakhapadar Thana.								
82	Thana in general	137·2	13,177	1,91,789 0 0	47,947 0 0		20,000 0 0		42,065 0 0
83	Devubai, widow of Vala Jethsur Sumait, shareholder of Dholarva.	Included in Thana in general.		1,000 0 0	250 0 0		—		—
84	Vala Punja Bhima, shareholder of Dholarva.			500 0 0	125 0 0		—		—
85	Vala Nag Dan and Vala Jetha Unad, shareholders of Charkha.			2,500 0 0	625 0 0	21,25,000 0 0	—	42,00,000 0 0	—
86	Vala Devdan Mulu, shareholder of Charkha.			2,500 0 0	625 0 0		—		—
87	Vala Jivna Mulu, shareholder of Charkha.			2,500 0 0	625 0 0		—		—
88	Vala Dewait Ram, shareholder of Bhathan.			1,200 0 0	300 0 0		—		—
89	Vala Sadul and Harsoor Moka, shareholders of Charkha.			5,000 0 0	1,250 0 0		—		—
90	Vala Ebhal Golam, guardian of Vala Punja and Giga Vikamthi and Vala Ebhal, shareholders of Charkha.			5,000 0 0	1,250 0 0		—		—
91	Vala Umad Mansur, shareholder of Khijadia.			1,500 0 0	375 0 0		—		—
92	Vala Naja and Vira Bhoj, shareholders of Charkha.			2,500 0 0	625 0 0		—		—
93	Vala Punja Jaita, shareholder of Monvel.			1,400 0 0	350 0 0		—		—
94	Vala Hamir Hathia, Talukdar of Halaria.			4,500 0 0	1,500 0 0		—		—
95	Vala Bawa Jaga, Talukdar of Garmali Moti.			600 0 0	160 0 0		—		—
	Dedan Thana.								
96	Kotila Naja Raning, of Dedan.	Not ascertainable.		—	—		4,000 0 0		5,648 0 0
97	Mota Barman			—	—		—		1,822 0 0
98	Kotila Jetwal Chapraj, shareholder of Dedan.			8,700 0 0	—		—		—
	Songadh Thana.								
99	Thana in general	Not ascertainable		—	—		—		19,647 14 0
100	Gohel Pratapsinhji, &c., of Limbda.	—	12,627	—	—		5,000 0 0		4,315 12 0
101	Gohel Harisinhji Jesinhji, Talukdar, Limbda.	Included in Thana in general.	—	11,020 0 0	—		—		—

Bombay Presidency from the year 1899-1900 up to the 15th November, 1901—*cont.*

ernment. 1901-1902. Sanctioned.	1901-1902. Advanced.	Total advanced.	Loans under guarantee. Amount received.	Total of famine loans.	Amount repaid.	Amount of advances to cultivators.	Remarks.
Rs a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a.	Rs. a. p	
	—	28,295 0 0	—	28,295 0 0	—	—	
	—	4,120 0 0	21,000 0 0	25,120 0 0	4,120 0 0	—	Interest paid .. .. .. Rs. a. p. 60 8 0
	—	4,800 0 0	—	4,800 0 0	—	—	
	—	9,900 0 0	—	9,900 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	25,000 0 0	25,000 0 0	—	—	
	9,084 6 8	1,19,800 6 4	—	1,19,800 6 4	—	—	
	—	1,280 0 0	—	1,280 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,001 0 0	2,001 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	4,001 0 0	4,001 0 0	—	—	
	—	20,148 0 0	—	20,148 0 0	10,000 0 0	—	
	—	62,065 0 0	—	62,065 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	450 0 0	450 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	300 0 0	300 0 0	—	—	
8,00,000 0 0	—	—	1,450 0 0	1,450 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	777 0 0	777 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	777 0 0	777 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	851 0 0	851 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,172 0 0	2,172 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,100 0 0	1,100 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	557 0 0	557 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	500 0 0	500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	4,401 0 0	4,401 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	670 0 0	670 0 0	—	—	
	—	9,648 0 0	—	9,648 0 0	—	—	
	—	1,822 0 0	—	1,822 0 0	122 0 0	—	
	—	—	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	19,647 14 0	—	19,647 14 0	1,234 1 3	—	
	—	9,315 12 0	—	9,315 12 0	—	—	
	—	—	3,501 0 0	3,501 0 0	—	—	

Statement of famine loans sanctioned and actually advanced to Native States in the

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	Estimated annual surplus.	Loans by Gov			
						1899-1900,		1900-1901.	
						Sanctioned.	Advanced.	Sanctioned.	Advanced.
	KATHIAWAR AGENCY—*cont.*			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	Chamardi Thana.								
102	Thana in general	72	10,494	—	—		—		27,252 0 0
103	Rawal Harbhamji and Modbhai Vejabhai and Khodabhai Gamansing, of Vadod.	Included in Thana in general.		1,200 0 0	400 0 0		—		—
	Bibra Thana.								
104	Thana in general	298·7	24,067	—	—		49,000 0 0		1,37,978 0 7
105	Vala Jaga Godad, of Bábra.	Included in Thana in general.	Included in Thana in general.	—	—		—		5,000 0 0
106	Khachar Mulu, Bhoj and his son, shareholders of Kariana.			9,000 0 0	3,000 0 0		—		—
107	Khachar Rana Khoda, shareholder of Kariana.			4,850 0 0	1,850 0 0		—		—
108	Khachar Champraj Mansur, shareholder of Bhadli.			5,769 0 0	—		—		—
109	Vala Blaya Hathia and others of Kotda Pitha.			7,000 0 0	4,500 0 0		—		—
110	Vala Champraj Ebhal, of Bábra			9,500 0 0	—		—		—
111	Vala Ala Matra, of Kotda Pitha.			3,000 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
112	Khachar Ram Dewait, Itaria Talukdar.			5,000 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
113	Khachar Sadul, Dewait, Ram Itaria shareholder.			5,500 0 0	800 0 0		—		—
114	Saiyed Huseinmia Gulamia, of Kandhia.			500 0 0	200 0 0		—		—
115	Khachar Dada Kala, shareholder of Bhadli.			2,600 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
116	Khachar Raning Chomla, shareholder of Bhadli.			5,245 0 0	1,045 0 0		—		—
117	Vala Devdan Desa, shareholder of Kotda Pitha.			4,630 0 0	630 0 0		—		—
118	Khachar Lakha Matra, of Kariana.			2,500 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
119	Vala Punja Jiva and others of Bábra.			6,800 0 0	1,800 0 0		—		—
120	Khachar Lakha Kala, of Bhadli.			2,503 0 0	400 0 0		—		—
121	Khachar Ram Bhim, of Bhadli.			2,500 0 0	300 0 0		—		—
122	Khachar Vasta Vagha ..			2,000 0 0	500 0 0	21,25,000 0 0	—	42,00,000 0 0	—
	Dátha Thana.								
123	Unadji Pathiraj, heir of Sarvaiya Pathiraj Ádabhai, shareholder of Pasni.	Not ascertainable.	Not ascertainable.	1,500 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
124	Sarvaiya Hanuirji and others, of Pasni.			3,050 0 0	1,050 0 0		—		—
	Lodhika Thana.								
125	Thana in general	265·2	5,870	46,200 0 0	—		9,554 0 0		5,470 0 0
126	Jadeja Pathabhai Mulji and others, shareholders of Vadali.	Included in Thana in general.	Included in Thana in general.	2,000 0 0	—		—		—
127	Jadeja Govindji and Rasabhai Amarsinh, shareholders of Mawa and Vajdi.			—	—		—		—
128	Jadeja Bhuraji Pragji, shareholder of Vadali.			—	—		—		—
129	Jadeja Madhavsing Jethji, shareholder of Sisang Chandli.			300 0 0	—		—		—
130	Jadeja Khimaji Jamalji and his brothers, shareholders of Sisang Chandli.			800 0 0	—		—		—
131	Jadeja Gagubha and Jethibhai, shareholders of Virwa.			2,300 0 0	300 0 0		—		—
132	Jadeja Nathaji Dadaji, shareholder of Nana Mama.			400 0 0	100 0 0		—		—
133	Jadeja Dewaji Dajibhai, shareholder of Nana Mama.			250 0 0	—		—		—
134	Jadeja Ratansinh Gajabhai, shareholder of Dewalia under Bhadwa.			685 0 0	116 0 0		—		—
135	Jadeja Bhimji Kasiaji, shareholder of Sisang Chandli.			275 0 0	140 0 0		—		—
136	Jadeja Dipsingji Vajesinhji and others, of Thebachda.			800 0 0	300 0 0		—		—

Bombay Presidency from the year 1899-1900 up to the 15th November, 1901—*cont.*

ernment. 1901-1902. Sanctioned.	Advanced.	Total advanced.	Loans under guarantee. Amount received.	Total of famine loans.	Amount repaid.	Amount of advances to cultivators.	Remarks.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
	—	27,252 0 0	—	27,252 0 0	232 4 7	—	
	—	—	600 0 0	600 0 0	—	—	
		—					
		—					
	24,595 14 9	2,11,573 15 4	—	2,11,573 15 4	2,903 5 0	—	Interest paid .. .. .. Rs. a. p. 7 2 5
	—	5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	—		
	—	—	3,500 0 0	3,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	3,500 0 0	3,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	6,000 0 0	6,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	5,500 0 0	5,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	4,000 0 0	4,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	400 0 0	400 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,500 0 0	2,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	5,500 0 0	5,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	—	—	
8,00,000 0 0							
	—	—	105 0 0	105 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	15,024 0 0	—	15,024 0 0	6,779 7 6	—	Interest paid 189 1 3
	—	—	2,900 0 0	2,900 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	700 0 0	700 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	350 0 0	350 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,200 0 0	2,200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	150 0 0	150 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	105 0 0	105 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	400 0 0	400 0 0	—	—	

Statement of famine loans sanctioned and actually advanced to Native States in the

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	Estimated annual surplus.	Loans by Gov			
						1899-1900.		1900-1901	
						Sanctioned.	Advanced	Sanctioned	Advanced.
	KATHIAWAR AGENCY—*cont.*			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a p	Rs. a. p.
	Lodhika Thana—cont.								
137	Jadeja Dewaji Jijibhai and others of Thebachda.			425 0 0	125 0 0		—		—
138	Bai Jamba and Jamjiba, widows of Jadeja Bhupatsing, Talukdar of Kankasiali.			1,650 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
139	Jadeja Harsinh and Jijibhai Mansinh, of Nana Mama.			300 0 0	125 0 0		—		—
140	Jadeja Mulubhai and others, shareholders of Manekwada under Rajapara.			1,200 0 0	1,000 0 0		—		—
141	Jadeja Chakubha Becharsing, of Thebachda.			400 0 0	125 0 0		—		—
142	Jadeja Chandrasinhji Lakhaji and others, of Sesang Chandli.			1,600 0 0	600 0 0		—		—
143	Jadeja Jorsinh Jayaji and others, of Manekwada.			925 0 0	352 0 0		—		—
144	Jadeja Harisinh Ramaji, Kotda Nayani Talukdar.			1,957 0 0	899 0 0		—		—
145	Ratansinh Bhawsinhji and others of Mankawad under Gudnka.			2,500 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
146	Jadeja Bapubhai Jivan and others, of Sisang Chandli.			2,500 0 0	950 0 0		—		—
147	Jadeja Sardarsinh Bhanaji, shareholder of Kotda Nayani.			200 0 0	50 0 0		—		—
148	Jadeja Saiwatsaih and others, shareholders of Ramki.			2,080 0 0	150 0 0		—		—
149	Jadeja Dolatsinh Viraji and Rahubha Udesinh, of Dewalia under Bhadwa.			2,500 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
150	Akhubha Hamirji and others, of Manekwada.	Included in Thana in general.		2,700 0 0	1,000 0 0		—		—
151	Jadeja Nathuji Amarji and others, of Bhada.			1,000 0 0	200 0 0		—		—
152	Jadeja Narsinh Dadaji and others, of Sisang Chandli.			750 0 0	200 0 0		—		—
153	Jadeja Nanbhai Pathabhai and others, of Sulia.			1,400 0 0	400 0 0		—		—
154	Jadeja Meruji Punjaji, shareholder of Kotda Nayani.			200 0 0	50 0 0	21,25,000 0 0	—	42,00,000 0 0	—
155	Jadeja Dewnaji Ramabhai, Mulgirasia of Jhileria under Khirasra.			900 0 0	—		—		—
156	Patabhai and Prabhatsinh Desalji, shareholder of Thebachda.			550 0 0	—		—		—
157	Jadeja Partapsinh and Nathuji Varsaji, shareholders of Sisang Chandli.			600 0 0	—		—		—
158	Jadeja Bhansinh Motibhai, shareholder of Sisang Chandli.			125 0 0	—		—		—
159	Jadeja Jesinhji Motibhai, shareholders of Sisang Chandli.			100 0 0	—		—		—
160	Jadeja Kalubha Dudaji, shareholder of Thebachda.			900 0 0	300 0 0				—
161	Jadeja Bhanabhai Kesrisinh, shareholders of Mama Vajdi.			2,200 0 0	1,000 0 0		—		
162	Jadeja Jesaji Hamirji, Bhagdar of Vadwali Vajdi under Khirasra.			1,200 0 0	600 0 0		—		—
163	Jadeja Kasuba Radhubhai, of Sisang Chandli.			400 0 0	—		—		—
164	Modji Raghabhai and others, of Sulia and Vadipara.			2,400 0 0	—		—		—
	Dhrafa Thana.								
165	Thana in general	207·7	9,695	1,06,000 0 0	76,500 0 0		16,000 0 0		77,450 0 0
166	Jadeja Sainatsinh Manubha and others, shareholders of Dhrafa.			2,000 0 0	500 0 0		—		—
167	Jadeja Jiyaji Gagjibhai, shareholder of Dhrafa.	Included in Thana in general.		1,300 0 0	300 0 0		—		—
168	Jadeja Raghabhai and Habhubhai Halaji, shareholders of Dhrafa.			1,100 0 0	300 0 0		—		—
169	Jadeja Madhavsing Muluji, shareholder of Dhrafa.			500 0 0	50 0 0		—		—

Bombay Presidency from the year 1899-1900 up to the 15th November, 1901—*cont.*

ernment.							
1901-1902.		Total advanced.	Loans under guarantee. Amount received.	Total of famine loans.	Amount repaid.	Amount of advances to cultivators.	Remarks.
Sanctioned.	Advanced.						
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
	—	—	500 0 0	500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	230 0 0	230 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	550 0 0	550 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	400 0 0	400 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,001 0 0	1,001 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,550 0 0	2,550 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,100 0 0	2,100 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,118 0 0	1,118 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	250 0 0	250 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,470 0 0	1,470 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	750 0 0	750 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	420 0 0	420 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,250 0 0	1,250 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—	
8,00,000 0 0	—	—	425 0 0	425 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	600 0 0	600 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	95 0 0	95 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	66 0 0	66 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	500 0 0	500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	2,500 0 0	2,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	180 0 0	180 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,300 0 0	1,300 0 0	—	—	
	9.431 6 3	1,02,881 6 3	—	1,02,881 6 3	9,396 10 9	—	
	—	—	500 0 0	500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	401 0 0	400 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	600 0 0	600 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	300 0 0	300 0 0	—	—	

Statement of famine loans sanctioned and actually advanced to Native States in the

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	Estimated annual surplus.	Loans by Gov			
						1899-1900.		1900-1901.	
						Sanctioned.	Advanced.	Sanctioned.	Advanced.
	KATHIAWAR AGENCY—*cont.*			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p	Rs. a. p.
	Dhrafa Thana—cont.								
170	Jadeja Vajesinh Dhingaji and others, shareholders of Mulila Machhiawad.	Included in Thana in general.		1,250 0 0	250 0 0		—		—
171	Jadeja Bhawabhai Hathibhai, shareholder of Mulila Machhiawad.			800 0 0	200 0 0		—		—
172	Jadeja Vajesinh Patabhai, shareholder of Satudad.			50 0 0	—		—		—
173	Jadeja Khanjibhai Jemalji, shareholder of Vavdi.			100 0 0	—		—		
174	Jadeja Jibhai Umedsinh and others, shareholders of Dhrafa.			1,500 0 0	200 0 0		—		—
175	Jadeja Ramsinh Dudaji and others, shareholders of Vavdi.			250 0 0	50 0 0		—		—
176	Jadeja Shivabha Hathibhai and others, shareholders of Dhrafa.			5,400 0 0	600 0 0		—		—
177	Jadeja Oghadbhai Narsinhji, shareholders of Dhrafa.			500 0 0	100 0 0		—		—
178	Jadeja Abhesinh Dudaji and others, shareholders of Dhrafa.			300 0 0	—		—		—
179	Malek Abbramkhan Kanabhai, shareholder of Amrapur.			500 0 0	60 0 0		—		—
180	Malek Bapubhai Mamdubhai, shareholder of Amrapur.			700 0 0	250 0 0		—		—
181	Jadeja Jhinabhai Muluji and others, shareholders of Dhrafa.			500 0 0	100 0 0		—		—
182	Jadeja Kalubha and Bhurabhai Sablaji, shareholders of Dhrafa.			800 0 0	—	21,25,000 0 0	—	42,00,000 0 0	—
183	Jadeja Rupabhai Nathuji and others, shareholders of Satudad.			500 0 0	200 0 0		—		—
	Bhagdars and others not under Thana.								
184	Malek Hamirkhan Dosabhai and others, Bhayats of Mera under Vanod.	Not ascertainable.		5,000 0 0	1,000 0 0		—		—
185	Vala Naja Mamaiya, of Jetpur.			16,000 0 0	4,000 0 0		2,000 0 0		—
186	Sardar Mahomedkhanji, of Sardargadh.			—	—		—		5,000 0 0
187	Jorawarkhan and others, of Bantwa.			—	—		—		6,000 0 0
188	Jadeja Pratapsinh Jivaji shareholder of Kalambdi under Mengni.			2,600 0 0	600 0 0		—		—
189	Jadeja Jorsinh and Ramabhai Bhavsinhji, shareholders of Campa Beda under Mengni.			425 0 0	—		—		—
190	Bhaobha and Vaghubhai Ratansinh, shareholders of Kalambi Mengni.			941 0 0	200 0 0		—		—
	Ballast work, Wadhwan			—	—		—		13,276 0 0
	Whole Agency			—	—		—		—
	TOTAL	—	—	—	—	21,25,000 0 0	21,06,300 12 7	42,00,000 0 0	†42,00,001 0 0
	BIJAPUR AGENCY.								
1	Jath (*a*)	884	61,000	1,61,500 0 0	45,000 0 0	40,000 0 0	40,000 0 0	2,00,000 0 0	2,00,000 0 0
2	Daphlapur Estate (*b*) ..	97	6,797	16,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	—	—	—	—
	KOLHAPUR AND SOUTHERN MARATHA COUNTRY AGENCY.								
1	Wadi Estate (*c*)	—	1,180	5 620 0 0	—	—	—	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0

(*a*) The Political Agent has promised to submit proposals for repayment of the loans shortly.
(*b*) For terms of repayment *vide* Foreign Department letter No. 1441-I. A., dated the 12th April, 1901.

Bombay Presidency from the year 1899-1900 up to the 15th November, 1901—*cont.*

ernment. 1901-1902. Sanctioned.	1901-1902. Advanced.	Total advanced.	Loans under guarantee. Amount received.	Total of famine loans.	Amount repaid.	Amount of advances to cultivators.	Remarks.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
	—	—	1,101 0 0	1,101 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	282 8 0	282 8 0	—	—	
	—	—	30 0 0	30 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	75 0 0	75 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	800 0 0	800 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	75 0 0	75 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	1,001 0 0	1,001 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	140 0 0	140 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	400 0 0	400 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	525 0 0	525 0 0	—	—	
8,00,000 0 0	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	140 0 0	140 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	225 0 0	225 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	7,500 0 0	7,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	2,000 0 0	13,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	—	Interest paid 43 13 4
	—	5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	Do. 45 0 7
	—	6,000 0 0	—	6,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	
	—	—	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—	
	—	—	600 0 0	600 0 0	—	—	
*4,00,000 0 0	4,00,000 0 0	13,276 0 0	—	13,276 0 0	—	—	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
‡8,00,000 0 0	1,93,599 7 1	68,99,901 3 8	40,74,436 8 0	1,09,74,337 11 8	13,09,642 6 2	—	
3,00,000 0 0	3,00,000 0 0	5,40,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0 From Jamkhandi State.	6,40,000 0 0	—	Rs. 68,222, which is recoverable.	
12,000 0 0	12,000 0 0	12,000 0 0	—	12,000 0 0	—	—	
—	—	5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	Rs. 1,270, which is recoverable.	

* Distribution not yet known.

† Re. 1 was overpaid to Paliad Thana in 1900-1901. It was refunded on 14th June, 1901.

‡ Orders have been issued for the payment of Rs. 79,000 from this amount, but it has not yet been paid, *i.e.*:—

	Rs. a. p.
Vala Ram Hursur, of Bagasra.	4,000 0 0
Chuda	10,000 0 0
Muli	38,000 0 0
Bajana	10,000 0 0
Sayla	17,000 0 0

(c) The Bombay Government have sanctioned the repayment of the loan in annual instalments of Rs. 1,000. As the Chief is a minor, no agreement has been taken.

Statement of famine loans sanctioned and actually advanced to Native States in the

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	Estimated annual surplus.	Loans by Gov 1899-1900. Sanctioned.	1899-1900. Advanced.	1900-1901. Sanctioned.	1900-1901. Advanced.
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	MAHIKANTHA AGENCY. (a)								
1	Idar	1,900	1,68,522	3,97,045 0 0	25,473 0 0	10,000 0 0	10,000 0 0	3,40,000 0 0	3,40,000 0 0
2	Pol	140	3,959	20,372 0 0	1,216 0 0	—	—	10,000 0 0	10,000 0 0
3	Malpur	75	8,065	34,381 0 0	62 0 0	—	—	8,000 0 0	8,000 0 0
4	Mohanpur	85	10,041	25,742 0 0	36 0 0	—	—	7,686 0 0	7,686 0 0
5	Varsoda	15	3,656	21,754 0 0	4,082 0 0	—	-	—	—
6	Pethapur	10	5,751	18,153 0 0	146 0 0	—	—	3,248 0 0	3,248 0 0
7	Ghodasar	12	6,219	31,019 0 0	40 0 0	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	12,000 0 0	4,000 0 0
8	Katosan	20	1,510	31,124 0 0	331 0 0	—	—	13,809 0 0	13,809 0 0
9	Ilol	10	3,306	22,271 0 0	1,100 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	12,497 0 0	12,497 0 0
10	Amliara	80	7,227	36,936 0 0	3,104 0 0	500 0 0	500 0 0	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0
11	Valasna	25	2,749	6,209 0 0	1,000 0 0	—	—	32 0 0	32 0 0
12	Dabha	10	1,307	6,306 0 0	—	—	—	5,032 0 0	5,032 0 0
13	Vasna	9	4,494	14,370 0 0	—	1,297 5 8	1,297 5 8	10,703 10 4	10,703 10 4
14	Rupal	9	3,113	2,546 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
15	Magodi	25	1,527	8,750 0 0	56 0 0	500 0 0	500 0 0	4,200 0 0	4,200 0 0
16	Vadagam	35	2,121	8,351 0 0	90 0 0	—	—	2,750 0 0	2,750 0 0
17	Sathamba	20	3,022	8,845 0 0	538 0 0	—	—	—	—
18	Ramas	10	865	2,232 0 0	326 0 0	100 0 0	100 0 0	957 0 0	957 0 0
19	Bolundra	7	740	2,105 0 0	5 0 0	—	—	32 0 0	32 0 0
20	Khedawada	27	804	4,045 0 0	590 0 0	—	—	750 0 0	750 0 0
21	Hapa	9	838	834 0 0	591 0 0	—	—	2,625 0 0	2,625 0 0
22	Likhi	30	959	3,145 0 0	—	—	—	4,000 0 0	4,000 0 0
23	Gabat	15	604	5,574 0 0	120 0 0	500 0 0	500 0 0	850 0 0	850 0 0
24	Ijpura Bhagdar	5	342	1,100 0 0	—	—	—	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0
25	Maguna Bhagdars, 3 shares	8	750	13,500 0 0	250 0 0	—	—	500 0 0	500 0 0
26	Do. 8 shares				1,600 0 0	—	—	3,300 0 0	3,300 0 0
27	Rampura	2	199	1,800 0 0	200 0 0	—	—	250 0 0	250 0 0
28	Ranipura	4	253	3,250 0 0	250 0 0	—	—	250 0 0	250 0 0
29	Tejpura	4	356	2,900 0 0	—	—	—	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0
30	Mehmedpura Pratapsing	5	449	900 0 0	75 0 0	—	—	900 0 0	900 0 0
31	Do. Agarsing					—	—	600 0 0	600 0 0
32	Do. Rasiji					—	—	300 0 0	300 0 0
33	Virsoda Gambhirsing	5	748	3,000 0 0	—	—	—	850 0 0	850 0 0
34	Do. Agarsing					—	—	650 0 0	650 0 0
35	Sudasna	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36	Bavisi Thana	—	—	—	—	—	20,000 0 0	—	74,003 5 0
37	Gadhwada Thana	—	—	—	—	—	6,000 0 0	—	28,182 11 9
38	Katosan Thana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,409 12 3
39	Vatrak Kantha Thana	—	—	—	—	—	300 0 0	—	20,731 12 0
40	Sabarkantha Thana	—	—	—	—	—	3,800 0 0	—	6,587 0 0
41	Sadra Bazar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Whole Agency	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	REWA KANTHA AGENCY.								
1	Rajpipla (b)	1,514	1,17,101	8,50,408 0 0	1,12,035 0 0	75,000 0 0	75,000 0 0	1,50,000 0 0	1,50,000 0 0
2	Balasinor (c)	189	32,626	1,97,139 0 0	14,647 0 0	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	70,000 0 0	70,000 0 0
3	Bhadarwa (d)	27	8,783	52,316 0 0	2,634 0 0	—	—	13,000 0 0	10,000 0 0
4	Mandwa (e)	16	4,987	32,836 0 0	4,014 0 0	—	—	20,000 0 0	20,000 0 0

(a) The loans to the Mahi Kantha States and Talukas are repayable in 10 years. The Political Agent has been asked to take acknowledgments of the loans up to date and to submit proposals for the recovery of the advances made to the Thanas.
(b) For terms of repayment, *vide* Bombay Government letter No. 8397, dated the 22nd November, 1900.

Bombay Presidency from the year 1899-1900 up to the 15th November, 1901—*cont.*

ernment. 1901-1902. Sanctioned.	1901-1902. Advanced.	Total advanced.	Loans under guarantee. Amount received.	Total of famine loans.	Amount repaid.	Amount of advances to cultivators.	Remarks. § Includes proportion due on account of— Extra Establishment.	Contingencies.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1,00,000 0 0	—	§4,50,805 6 10	—	4,50,805 6 10	—	—	752 5 3	53 1 7
	—	§10,006 5 6	—	10,006 5 6	—	—	5 14 9	0 6 9
	—	8,000 0 0	—	8,000 0 0	—	—	—	—
	1,400 0 0	9,086 0 0	—	9,086 0 0	—	—	—	—
	—	—	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—	—	—
	—	3,248 0 0	—	3,248 0 0	—	—	—	—
	—	§5,015 6 7	—	5,015 6 7	—	—	14 5 11	1 0 8
	2,600 0 0	§16,431 5 0	—	16,431 5 0	—	—	20 13 2	1 7 10
	800 0 0	§13,612 0 8	—	13,612 0 8	—	—	14 0 4	1 0 4
	—	§3,504 7 6	20,000 0 0	23,504 7 6	—	—	4 2 8	0 4 10
	—	32 0 0	—	32 0 0	—	—	—	—
50,000 0 0	—	5,032 0 0	—	5,032 0 0	—	—	—	—
	1,600 0 0	§13,616 5 7	—	13,616 5 7	—	—	14 4 11	1 0 8
	—	—	2,877 6 0	2,877 6 0	—	—	—	—
	800 0 0	§5,503 2 9	—	5,503 2 9	—	—	2 15 5	0 3 4
	—	2,750 0 0	—	5,750 0 0	—	—	—	—
	—	—	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—	—	—
	400 0 0	§1,457 15 5	—	1,457 15 5	—	—	0 14 1	0 1 4
	300 0 0	332 0 0	—	332 0 0	—	—	—	—
	—	750 0 0	—	750 0 0	—	—	—	—
	—	2,625 0 0	—	2,625 0 0	—	—	—	—
	—	4,000 0 0	—	4,000 0 0	—	—	—	—
4,000 0 0	4,000 0 0	§5,354 2 2	—	5,354 2 2	—	—	3 13 8	0 4 6
	—	1,500 0 0	—	1,500 0 0	—	—		
	—	500 0 0	—	500 0 0	—	—		
	—	3,300 0 0	—	3,300 0 0	—	—		
	—	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	—	—		
	—	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	—	—		
	—	5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	—	—		
	—	900 0 0	—	900 0 0	—	—		
	—	600 0 0	—	600 0 0	—	—		
50,000 0 0	—	300 0 0	—	300 0 0	—	—	* Includes proportion due on account of—	
	—	850 0 0	—	850 0 0	—	—		
	—	650 0 0	—	650 0 0	—	—	Establishment.	Contingencies.
	800 0 0	800 0 0	—	800 0 0	—	—		
	20,600 0 0	*1,15,391 6 5	—	1,15,391 6 5	216 3 9	—	Rs. a. p. 774 0 1	Rs. a. p. 14 1 4
	—	*35,283 10 6	—	35,283 10 6	874 8 4	—	1,094 11 1	6 3 8
	8,280 0 0	*35,465 4 4	—	34,465 4 4	1,895 8 6	—	769 4 6	6 3 7
	4,200 0 0	*25,439 11 3	—	25,439 11 3	1,381 15 1	—	204 4 6	3 10 9
	1,280 0 0	*11,761 4 4	—	11,761 4 4	992 12 7	—	92 7 6	1 12 10
	360 0 0	360 0 0	—	360 0 0	—	—		
†50,000 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	† Distribution not yet known.	
4,00,000 0 0	—	6,25,000 0 0	—	6,25,000 0 0	22,500 0 0	‡68,490 0 0	‡ Out of general revenues and loan. Much of this will be eventually found to be irrecoverable.	
90,000 0 0	90,000 0 0	1,75,000 0 0	—	1,75,000 0 0	8,500 0 0	54,030 8 0		
3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	13,000 0 0	—	13,000 0 0	—	3,538 14 3		
—	—	20,000 0 0	—	20,000 0 0	—	1,500 0 0		

(c) For terms of repayment, as regards the first two loans: as for the loan of Rs. 50,000, *vide* Foreign Department letter No. 2512, dated the 1st July, 1901.
(d) For terms of repayment, *vide* Bombay Government letter No. 6,286, dated the 7th September, 1901.
(e) The loans are repayable in 10 years.

Statement of famine loans sanctioned and actually advanced to Native States in the

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	Estimated annual surplus.	Loans by Gov			
						1899-1900.		1900-1901.	
						Sanctioned.	Advanced.	Sanctioned.	Advanced.
	REWA KANTHA AGENCY—*cont.*			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
5	Sankheda Mewas (*e*) ..	311	32,267	2,60,038 0 0	Annual deficit of Rs. 30,000 for the three years ending 1898.	—	—	9,235 0 0	9,235 0 0
6	Chhota Udaipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	Sanjili..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	Jambughoda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	Pandu Mewas (*f*).. ..	81·7	12,701	66,952 0 0	4,553 0 0	—	—	5,765 0 0	5,765 0 0
10	Petty States	—	—	—	—	—	..	—	—
	PALANPUR SUPERINTENDENCY.								
1	Palanpur (*g*)	3,177	222,975	6,38,540 15 11	−17,660 0 0	2,60,000 0 0	3,07,861 0 0	5,97,861 0 0	5,42,139 0 0
2	Radhanpur (*h*)	1,150	61,574	6,99,199 10 8	1,67,957 1 3	80,000 0 0	80,000 0 0	2,50,000 0 0	2,50,000 0 0
3	Tharad (*i*)	940	16,087	60,617 9 7	−952 14 3	60,000 0 0	38,215 0 0	25,000 0 0	14,285 0 0
4	Vav (*j*)	380	8,289	28,249 5 6	−1,834 6 4		21,785 0 0		10,715 0 0
5	Thana Circles (*k*)	2,475	147,720	2,42,787 10 5	Figures not available.	1,50,000 0 0	1,50,000 0 0	2,75,000 0 0	2,80,439 14 10
6	Petty Talukdars for domestic purposes. (*l*)	Included in No. 5 *supra*.			Do.	20,000 0 0	7,064 0 0	—	12,605 0 0
7	Wao State	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	SHOLAPUR AGENCY.								
1	Akalkot (*m*)..	498	82,052	3,44,275 0 0	70,000 0 0	—	—	—	—
	SURAT AGENCY.								
1	Dharmpur (*n*)	794	100,433	3,87,000 0 0	1,63,508. 0 0	40,000 0 0	40,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0

(*e*) and (*f*) The loans are repayable in 10 years.
(*g*) Proposals for repayment of the loans are awaited from the Political Superintendent.
(*h*) For terms of repayment, *vide* Bombay Government letter No. 6784, dated the 30th September, 1901.
(*i*) and (*j*) For terms of repayment, *vide* Bombay Government letter No. 7838, dated the 14th November, 1901.

Bombay Presidency from the year 1899-1900 up to the 15th November, 1901—*cont.*

ernment. 1901-1902. Sanctioned.	1901-1902. Advanced.	Total advanced.	Loans under guarantee. Amount received.	Total of famine loans.	Amount repaid.	Amount of advances to cultivators.	Remarks
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
—	—	9,235 0 0	—	9,235 0 0	637 8 0	535 0 0	
50,000 0 0	—	50,000 0 0	—	50,000 0 0	—	—	
10,000 0 0	—	10,000 0 0	—	10,000 0 0	—	—	
5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	—	—	
—	—	5,765 0 0	—	5,765 0 0	481 0 1	—	
5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	—	—	
—	—	8,50,000 0 0	—	8,50,000 0 0	—	—	
—	2,25,000 0 0	5,55,000 0 0	—	5,55,000 0 0	—	—	
—	13,466 4 4	65,966 4 4	—	65,966 4 4	—	—	
—	17,953 7 3	50,453 7 3	—	50,453 7 3	—	—	
§2,50,000 0 0	43,363 5 4	4,73,803 4 2	—	4,73,803 4 2	—	—	§ Distribution of one lakh not yet known.
17,029 0 0	16,973 9 5	36,642 9 5	—	36,642 9 5	—	—	
—	—	—	—	16,000 0 0	—	—	
—	—	—	1,50,000 0 0	1,50,000 0 0	‖15,000 0 0	1,956 0 0 Whole of which is recoverable.	‖ Plus interest.
—	—	1,40,000 0 0	—	1,40,000 0 0	¶14,000 0	—	¶ Interest paid .. Rs. a. p. 3,201 0 0

(*k*) Question as to terms of repayment postponed for two years, *vide* Foreign Department letter No. 4410-I. A., dated the 10th December, 1901.
(*l*) Proposals are awaited from the Political Superintendent.
(*m*) *Vide* Foreign Department letter No. 3959-I. A., dated the 5th September, 1900
(*n*) The loan is repayable in 10 years.

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